

## Women's Tour of Nicaragua

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## Senate Probes NAMBLA





# GayCommunityNews

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## Anti-Gay Attacks Continue

# Carolina Police Raids, Fire Nip Tarheels

By Michelle Nethercott

CHARLOTTE, NC — In what appears to be the next wave in a campaign against gay people in this state, following on the homophobic heels of Jesse Helms' recent Senate race, six adult bookstores and movie theaters with gay clientele were raided by police last month and Charlotte's largest gay bar was the victim of arson.

At 5:00 p.m. on December 19, over 100 police officers and government accountants invaded the bookstores and movie theater described by Charlotte and Mecklenberg County officials as centers for male homosexuality. The searches at some stores took up to twelve hours and police seized projectors, business records, films, magazines and sexual devices from one store.

Police also searched two Charlotte apartments and arrested James Barnes Hathaway, described as the manager of Airport News

and Tobacco, and charged him with felony possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. Hathaway was released on \$1050 bond and couldn't be contacted by GCN.

Search warrants authorizing the searches were issued by County Superior Court Judge Frank Snapp after undercover officers testified they had observed sex acts and purchased obscene materials from the various stores over the course of an eight-month-long investigation. In one affidavit, county vice officer P.R. Paschal stated that he had visited the Act Three Adult Bookstore nine times since October 19 and had been in each of the 16 two-person motion picture viewing booths. Paschal said he had seen semen on the floors and walls of every movie booth, witnessed acts of masturbation and had been solicited by two men.

The investigation that led to the raids was launched after a meeting of District Attorney Peter Gilchrist, county police chief Mack Vines, and Charlotte Mayor Harvey Gant. At the meeting, they decided to initiate a pornography crackdown, apparently in response to numerous complaints.

The Rev. Joseph Chambers, chairman of the anti-pornography group Concerned Charlotteans, stated that the searches "mean that we're making progress." Concerned Charlotteans, which Chambers claims is supported by 500 individuals and 200 churches, began its anti-porn campaign in mid-March and intends to broaden its focus to include magazines carried by convenience stores.

District Attorney Peter Gilchrist has filed civil rights suits seeking to close the six raided bookstores as public nuisances. The suits allege

that the bookstore's purpose is illicit lewdness, prostitution and homosexual activity and that the establishments are havens for crimes against nature; that owners and operators of the establishments openly engage in fellatio, cunnilingus and masturbation.

On the same day that these suits were filed, temporary restraining orders were issued which allowed the stores to remain open, but owners and operators were required to keep detailed records of transactions.

Last year in Charlotte, the DA's office used civil suits to close 15 Charlotte-Mecklenberg massage parlors as public nuisances. Officials are utilizing civil suits against such businesses because of the difficulty of prosecuting criminal charges for pornography or obscenity violations under North Carolina law. DA Paul Whitfield describes the law as "one of the most liberal in the nation."

According to Whitfield, North Carolina has become a safe haven for pornographers under the law.

The 1973 law requires the additional determination of the obscenity of a particular item before someone can be charged with selling pornographic material. Consequently, enforcement of the law is difficult because retailers can avoid liability by changing the title of a book or movie, making slight alterations, or transferring the item in question to a neighboring county where the

ruling is not in effect.

In a news conference that coincided with the start of the searches, Charlotte's Mayor Harvey Gant, who faces re-election in November of this year, stated that he wanted "to see this kind of thing shut down and pushed out of the city of Charlotte."

Charlotte police attorney Bob Thomas was incensed by the discovery that sex acts are not only taking place pictorially and on film but "also were taking place live." Thomas added that "what two consenting adults do in private is not our concern, but in a public place — and these bookstores are public places — we are going to do something about it."

Gilchrist has denied that the crackdown was the result of concerted citizen pressure, although he admitted that he is "always sensitive to community interest." Gilchrist promised to use an "arsenal of weapons — civil, criminal, whatever we can come up with," to "go after pornography, prostitution, and open sexual contact."

According to Don King, a Charlotte gay activist and former editor of *Q-Notes*, a monthly newsletter that ceased publishing in November, 1984, of the roughly 17 adult bookstores in Charlotte, seven were frequented by gay men. Only one bookstore with a gay clientele was not raided. King believes the raids were the result of organized efforts by anti-pornography groups that may be linked to the Moral Majority.

*Continued on next page*

## Porn Panic Panned

# Anti-Porn Bill Dies; Indianapolis Law Cited

By Sue Hyde

RIVERHEAD, Long Island — A Minneapolis-style anti-porn bill which would allow individuals to sue the makers, sellers, distributors, or exhibitors of pornography went down to defeat on Dec. 26 in the Suffolk County Legislature. Legislators rejected the bill by a vote of nine to eight.

A November 19 federal court decision striking down similar legislation in Indianapolis figured in the defeat of conservative Legislator Michael D'Andre's "Local Law To Limit Violence Against Women." The bill's introduction brought to a boil a simmering debate among feminists concerning the so-called civil rights approach to regulation of pornography.

Several legislators said they doubted the bill would withstand legal challenges, and a legislative aide to D'Andre told GCN that the Indianapolis ruling had cast a shadow over the Suffolk County bill. Arnold Reisinger, D'Andre's aide, indicated that his boss would wait until the legal appeals surrounding the Indianapolis bill were resolved before he would consider re-introducing his own version. "Why should we pay all the legal expenses?" Reisinger asked. "Let's see what happens and then we may re-activate the bill."

Nan Hunter, spokesperson for the Feminist Anti-Censorship Taskforce (FACT), also cited the Indianapolis decision. "The Indianapolis ruling made it clear that [the law] would face a tough judicial fight." The Suffolk County chapter of the New York Civil Liberties Union had promised to challenge the bill in court the day after its passage.

And the Suffolk County Executive, Peter Cohalan, vowed to veto the bill if passed, a move which would require twelve legislative votes to overturn. Cohalan called the bill unconstitutional. Martin B. Ashre, the county attorney, told the legislators before

they voted that the bill violated the state constitution and usurped powers of the state legislature.

The bill's language and some testimony in favor of it conflated homosexuality and the collapse of the dominant social order. In its section called "legislative intent," the law claimed that pornography causes "sodomy" and "destruction of the family unit." One speaker testifying in support of the bill said that pornography could cause social decay, leading to a possible communist takeover of the United States.

The bill's introduction sparked intense debate among New York City area feminists who both supported and opposed the bill. On Sept. 25 at the first of two public hearings on the bill, representatives of New York's Women Against Pornography (WAP) praised D'Andre and the legislature for their efforts on behalf of women. WAP representative Frances Patai then criticized the bill as not providing adequate protection for women. Patai recommended that the bill be changed to make it more similar to the legislation drafted by radical feminists Andrea Dworkin and Katharine MacKinnon and passed by city councils in Minneapolis and Indianapolis.

Opponents of the anti-porn bill included FACT. A representative of that group argued at the Sept. 25 hearing that the bill would do nothing to stop violence against women or sexual abuse and could be used against a wide variety of materials both pleasurable and useful to women.

At the second public hearing on the bill, held Oct. 9, no feminist appeared to testify in its favor. But the bill's opponents came out in force. Several feminists, some of them FACT members, attacked the bill, characterizing it as legislation that would harm rather than help women.

Nan Hunter of FACT believes her group's high profile in lobby-

ing efforts helped to illustrate the diversity of opinions held by feminists on the purported connections between pornography and violence against women. "What we did," Hunter told

*Continued on next page*

## 'Inadequately Explored'

# Suspected GCN Arsonist Sentenced To 40 Years

By Janice Irvine

BOSTON — Federal court Judge Rya Zobel sentenced arson ring leader Donald Stackpole to 40 years in prison on Jan. 3, just hours after he pled guilty to six counts of arson in Suffolk County Superior Court and was sentenced to 19-20 years by Judge James McGuire. The stiff sentences stem from Stackpole's role as leader of a group of seven police officers, firefighters and security guards who set over 200 fires in the Boston area in 1982-83, including that which gutted the offices of *Gay Community News*, *Fag Rag*, and the Glad Day Bookshop on July 7, 1982.

Despite Stackpole's plea for leniency, Zobel characterized the fires as "acts of terrorism or sheer malice," and she imposed the sentence recommended by U.S. Attorney Mark Robinson. According to the Boston *Globe*, Robinson's sentencing memorandum said that Stackpole "delighted in seeing firefighters exhausted or injured, property destroyed, and innocent people scared for their lives." He was sentenced to five years each on conspiracy and obstruction of justice charges and ten years each for three counts of arson. Stackpole will be eligible for parole in about 13 years.

One of Stackpole's co-conspirators, Ray Norton, a

13-year veteran of the Boston Fire Department, is scheduled for trial on Jan. 21. Until that time, Robinson and officials from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms have refused official comment on the case.

Gary Flanagan of the Boston Arson Squad told GCN, "Who can evaluate the damage these people did to human beings? You know the aggravation you people went through.... I wish [the sentence] was another hundred years. I think he's an evil SOB."

Stackpole's role in the GCN fire is unclear. Federal officials have refused to comment, although in August, Robinson told GCN that he had "no evidence" that the arsonists were targeting the GCN office at the Bromfield Street fire (See GCN, Vol. 12, No. 4). Flanagan said, "I think they were just going around to places, but you just never know."

Jim Hamrock, Asst. District Attorney of Suffolk County, told GCN that although Stackpole was not charged with the Bromfield St. fire in state court, he believes it was one of the more than 100 fires included in Stackpole's federal conspiracy indictment.

Speculation has been rife about the motivations for the fire. Many at GCN suspected political attack or arson-for-profit when the newspaper was razed in 1982. Yet when

the band of arsonists was indicted last summer, U.S. Attorney William Weld and local media characterized them as model cops and fire buffs who were protesting cutbacks in the police and fire departments in the wake of tax cuts stemming from Proposition 2½. This idealization appears to be fading, particularly in light of the extent of the damage. Injuring 282 firefighters and destroying more than \$50 million worth of property, the arson case is considered the largest in state or federal history.

Boston city council member and longtime anti-arson activist David Scondras applauded Stackpole's stiff sentence, but expressed skepticism about the comprehensiveness of the arson investigations. He noted that the job of the investigators is to convict arsonists, not to uncover their psychological motivations, but he said, "I don't think the answer to the question 'Why?' has ever been adequately answered. It's hard to believe it was all in reaction to Proposition 2½.... What has never been made clear to me is why particular places were chosen over others. To some extent it's not random. I've been wondering to what extent the Bromfield St. fire was homophobic. I don't think that was adequately explored."



# News Notes

## quote of the week

"I want to tell you something. I enjoyed being a homosexual. I didn't give up something that I hated. I enjoyed being gay. I enjoyed being unnatural. It was the in-thing to be. Everybody wants to be gay today."  
— Little Richard, as quoted in *The Life and Times of Little Richard* by Charles White.

## a real lulu

BOSTON — The Athens by Night jazz club in Boston's South End, also known by its former name, Lulu White's, has been denied a renewal of its entertainment license due to neighborhood fears that the club owners were turning the establishment into a gay disco.  
According to the *South End News*, the Boston Licensing Board has also threatened to revoke the club's liquor license if it is found that a transfer of ownership took place without Board notification. Board hearings were called after advertisements in *New England Connection* billed the opening of a "gay owned and operated...All New Lulu White...soon to be Boston's hottest night spot." The newspaper identified the club's new manager as Jonathan Jackson, who also manages the Provincetown gay bar, Crown and Anchor.  
Some South End residents say they are as opposed to a disco in the neighborhood as they were in 1981 when Henry Vara, Jackson's employer at the Crown and Anchor, also unsuccessfully proposed turning the club into a disco. Although it seems clear that the jazz club has been renovated to disco specifications, the club owners say there has been no transfer of ownership and Jackson told the *Boston Ledger* that Vara is not involved in the Lulu venture.

## bye bye boom boom

SAN FRANCISCO, CA — The most blessed Sister Boom Boom, founder of San Francisco's Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, is leaving the nunnery and reclaiming his lay name, Jack Fertig, according to the *Philadelphia Gay News*. Boom Boom insists his role in a Euripides play and his career as a professional astrologer leave no time for prayer, etc. He does intend to continue fundraising to fight AIDS. The Sisters have already collected thousands of dollars toward fighting the disease. We'll miss you, Boom Boom.

## did his time

SAN FRANCISCO — Dan White, who assassinated gay San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone in 1978, was freed from parole on January 6, 1985, and can now leave Los Angeles, according to the *Boston Globe*. White was released from Soledad State Prison last January 6 after serving just over five years of a seven-year, eight-month sentence for what the jury called "voluntary manslaughter."

## racist attack

Trial proceedings against two white men who physically attacked and harassed an inter-racial couple at Jamaica Pond in Boston last Memorial Day weekend began on January 7, 1985. The white men were originally charged at West Roxbury District Court with several misdemeanors, including a civil rights violation. As a result of pressure from members of the Rainbow Coalition and others, eleven felony counts were eventually brought against the defendants, including felony civil rights violations, and the case was transferred to Superior Court in Suffolk County.  
Anyone interested in attending the trial, helping to organize anti-racist activities around the trial, or in making a financial contribution, can call 522-0006 or 522-7836. Send donations to the Rainbow Coalition, c/o Ken Tangvik, 10 Revere St., Jamaica Plain, 02130.

## Carolina

*Continued from previous page*

King pointed out that all adult bookstores in Atlanta have been closed down by the D.A.'s office there; he believes the anti-pornography forces are gradually working their way up the East Coast. King says he's angry about the raids and sees them as a clear attack on the gay community. He believes that straight cops who wanted to "get the faggots" solicited sexual contacts, didn't like the experience and grossly exaggerated the openness of the sexual encounters.  
King described most of the bookstores as basically private places where some people go to socialize, some to cruise and some to have sex in the booths, but not

as dominated by the orgy scenes that police descriptions suggest. In fact, the bookstores are often safe places for people to have sex who don't want to be openly identified as gay. King believes that even if these suits fail in court, they'll have a chilling effect on both owners and patrons.  
On Christmas Eve, just five days after the bookstore raids, Charlotte's largest gay bar, the Scorpio Lounge, was the victim of an arson attempt. The bar was closed at the time, so no one was injured, but damage to the building is estimated at about \$150,000. The fire was started by someone who poured a flammable fluid down a heating/air conditioning exhaust fan on the roof of the building. The fire department refused to issue any information

## the bill is back

WASHINGTON, DC — Lesbian and gay civil rights legislation, identical to that introduced during the last Congress, was reintroduced in the House of Representatives. The bill would amend existing statutes to include sexual preference in the list of protected categories of people in employment, housing, federally funded programs and access to public facilities.  
Representatives Ted Weiss (D-NY) and Henry Waxman (D-CA) are the bill's chief sponsors, and a total of 46 representatives have signed on as original co-sponsors. Negotiations are currently underway to draft a chief sponsor for the Senate version of the bill.

## first in maine

PORTLAND, ME — A 31-year-old gay man from Portland has been diagnosed with AIDS, the first case reported to state health officials in Maine, according to the *Boston Globe*. "This is our first diagnosed indigenous case which meets the Centers for Disease Control criteria [for AIDS]," said James Novotny, director of the state's Sexually Transmitted Disease Program. The four states that still have not reported cases of AIDS are North Dakota, South Dakota, Idaho and Montana. State officials in Maine expect to see several additional AIDS diagnoses in the months ahead.

## minor problem

LONDON — *minor PROBLEMS*, an international news and review magazine for "free intergenerational and childhood relations," has temporarily suspended publication. The next issue, which had been scheduled for December 1984, will not appear before late spring or summer of this year. Stating that this hiatus is unrelated to the tumultuous close-down of PIE (the Paedophile Information Exchange, in England), staff of *minor PROBLEMS* intends to spend the next months restructuring and refinancing the magazine.

## fight to win

PLAINFIELD, VT — Deane Brittingham of Plainfield has agreed to a settlement of her lawsuit charging discrimination on the basis of sexual preference against Ann Sarcka, former director of the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women, and Betty Jones, chair of the Commission. The suit, brought in January, 1982, claimed Sarcka and Jones prevented Brittingham from continuing as state coordinator of the Project Against Domestic Violence because of her publicly declared lesbianism. Brittingham said she agreed to the settlement of \$600 and a public statement of regret because, "I feel a number of substantial gains have been made already by this suit [which] served to hold the Commission and staff accountable to the general public for its actions, and will encourage a re-evaluation of discriminatory hiring practices by government agencies and the private sector, knowing they may face possible lawsuits."

CAMBRIDGE, MA — Sociologist Theda Skocpol has won a four-year sex discrimination battle against Harvard University, which recently reversed its 1980 decision to deny her tenure, according to the *New York Times*.  
Skocpol, who has not made a decision about accepting the tenure offer, had been denied tenure by a close vote of Harvard's all-male permanent sociology faculty. She charged that she had been denied tenure because she is a woman. A special investigating committee reviewed the case and concluded that the department had failed "to seriously consider any woman for tenure appointments over the past decade." In 1980, 12 of the 356 tenured members of the Harvard faculty of arts and sciences were women. By October of 1983, the number was 21 out of 355.

## affirmative action

WASHINGTON, DC — The Supreme Court, showing uncharacteristic support for affirmative action, rejected charges by white employees of "reverse discrimination." In doing so, it upheld an appellate ruling that allows state agencies to adjust the test scores of minority applicants without a court finding of prior racial discrimination.  
According to the *Boston Globe*, the justices refused to hear a case brought by 15 white New York state correctional officers who claimed they were bumped down the promotion ladder when the state civil service commission raised test scores of candidates of color. At issue were appointments to the rank of captain, a post never held by an officer of color. The court's action does not represent a full-scale ruling on the issue, but merely lets stand the appellate decision. Other courts in the U.S. can choose to follow it or not.

## not guilty?

LOWELL, MA — Edward Kopacz, who was acquitted in the 1978 murder of Curtis Dale Barbre, a 19-year-old gay man, was indicted this month by a Middlesex County grand jury on charges of aggravated rape and kidnapping of a 16-year-old girl. Kopacz had admitted to witnessing Barbre's death in Lowell on February 2, 1978, but claimed in December, 1979, that two unidentified accomplices had shot and killed the gay man.  
David Brill, a reporter for *GCN* who had been cooperating with police in the Barbre investigation, expressed concern at the time that Barbre had been one of several young gay men in Boston targeted for murder. The Barbre case was originally brought to public attention when Brill was found dead — an apparent suicide, according to the *Boston Globe* — in his parents' home in Winthrop.

## protest the inauguration

WASHINGTON, DC — A major demonstration against Reagan's inauguration has been called by the people's Anti-War Mobilization (PAM) and the All People's Congress (APC) for Monday, January 21 in Washington, D.C. The protest will target Reagan's policies here and abroad, including U.S. support of apartheid in South Africa, the lack of sufficient funding for AIDS research and services, U.S. intervention in Central America, and the bombings of abortion clinics in recent months. Organizers invite the lesbian and gay community to make a strong presence. Buses will be leaving from the Boston Area on Sunday, January 20. Call APC at 424-1176 for more information.

## shmate

BERKELEY, CA — An unusual approach to informing the Left about the Right is being planned by *Shmate*, an independent magazine for progressive Jews. Claiming that most writing about the Right comes from the Bay Area, New York City, Washington, or Greater Boston, an upcoming issue will have fourteen articles examining the Right, only one of them written by a writer based in any of those prolific areas. The issue will be co-edited by Lenny Ziskind in Kansas City, Missouri, and will include articles on topics such as "The Right's Use of the Jews"; "The Women's Anti-Pornography Movement and the Right"; and "Nathan Perlmutter, Anti-Semitism and the Right."  
*Shmate*, which has been a one-person, extremely low-budget operation for three years of publishing, seeks donations to finance a large press run for this special issue, which will be published this month. If you'd like to donate, purchase a copy (\$5), or subscribe (\$15/year), write to *Shmate* at Box 4228, Berkeley, CA 94704.

## News Notes compiled by Stephanie Poggi.

resolved. According to King, Marion Tyson does not believe the 1980 fire was the product of arson and may have been caused by a defect in the electrical system. The Tysons could not be contacted by *GCN*.  
**Porn**  
*Continued from previous page*  
*GCN*, "was to de-legitimate the idea that feminists were uniformly and in a simple sense against pornography.... D'Andre initially got a lot of quick and positive press on the bill and support from women's groups, too. I think FACT led the way to dispel the impression that it was in any kind of way supported by all women."  
According to a WAP spokeswoman, just prior to the legis-

lature's vote on the bill, WAP decried it as anti-obscenity, rather than civil rights, legislation.  
Grace Crawley, executive director of the Suffolk County chapter of the New York Civil Liberties Union, said she expects the anti-porn campaign to continue in her county. "I expect [the legislators] will keep dragging it out in front of the public," Crawley said. "It's good for them. They're all up for reelection in November."  
Crawley said she had not seen any letters to the editor supporting the bill in *Newsday*, the Long Island daily paper, nor was she aware of a groundswell of public sentiment grieving its demise. "No one really seems to care," Crawley commented.  
— *filed from Boston*



## 1950s-Style Witchhunt

# Senate Investigates Kiddie Porn, NAMBLA

By Daniel Tsang

WASHINGTON, DC — Thirty years after Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy used his chairmanship of the U.S. Senate permanent investigations subcommittee as a vehicle to hunt “subversives,” a new witchhunt is being conducted by the same committee.

In late November, the Senate investigations subcommittee held two days of joint hearings with the juvenile justice subcommittee on child pornography and pedophilia, parading eight witnesses who testified on the “underground world of commercial child pornography and pedophiles,” in the words of current subcommittee chair William V. Roth, Jr. (R-Del.)

In his opening statement, Roth described pedophiles as “criminals whose abnormal sexual attraction to children leads them into a vicious cycle of sexual exploitation and child abuse.” Asserting that child pornography and child molestation “are inextricably linked,” Roth described the pedophile as “obsessed with capturing the innocence of his victim on film, or now with new technology, video tape.”

He reported his subcommittee staff had “interviewed scores of child pornography experts and pedophile specialists, doctors, lawyers, judges, social service professionals and even child molesters themselves.” He promised witnesses would describe “innovative methods being used to target, arrest and convict child molesters and distributors of pornography” and detail activities of “several organizations in America devoted to the advocacy and practice of sex with children.”

These organizations, with “several thousand members and supporters,” publicly advocate repeal of age-of-consent laws, Roth said, but “in reality their members and leaders actively promote the molestation of children, including prostitution and the distribution of child pornography.”

**No representatives from any of the organizations were asked to testify to rebut Roth’s allegations. For example, the North American Man/Boy Love Association, the Manhattan-based group that remains under active FBI investigation (although no charges have ever been brought), was not asked to testify.**

No representatives from any of the organizations were asked to testify to rebut Roth’s allegations. For example, the North American Man/Boy Love Association, the Manhattan-based group that remains under active FBI investigation (although no charges have ever been brought), was not asked to testify. In fact, NAMBLA maintains it is opposed to any form of sexual exploitation, and would expel members that do not live by that ethical code, according to NAMBLA spokesman Bob Rhodes.

Nonetheless, NAMBLA featured prominently in the hearings. Two witnesses gave detailed information on the group: Detective Lieutenant William G. Thorne (Bergen County, NJ), instrumental in the arrest in 1982 of NAMBLA steering committee member James Cooper, devoted three pages of his prepared testimony to Cooper; and Detective William Dworin (Los Angeles Police Department), who has been described in the press as having done “extensive undercover work” in the U.S. and Europe “seeking child molesters and pornographers,” testified about the activities of NAMBLA, the Rene Guyon Society, the Paedophile Information Exchange, the Childhood Sensuality Circle, PAN magazines, and the Lewis Carroll Collectors Guild.

Thorne told the senators that among the items seized from Cooper’s home were “the monthly NAMBLA Bulletin, checkbooks, meeting minutes, and video cassette tapes of NAMBLA conferences.” Contacted in Paramus, NJ, Cooper labelled Thorne’s account a lie. Cooper doesn’t own a VCR, he said, and never had any video recordings of NAMBLA meetings.

Thorne also seized Cooper’s small library of books on man/boy love, including Mitzel’s *The Boston Sex Scandal*. According to Cooper, who is now appealing his 5-year sentence for fellatio on a boy weeks short of his 16th birthday, those books now adorn Thorne’s office.

Photographs were also seized, but Thorne admitted that “those that did depict children in the nude were minimal.” According to Cooper, only two nude photos were seized, and were technically legal, being of a boy over 16, the legal age of consent. Most photos, Thorne said, were “taken at sports events depicting children wearing various sports uniforms.”

Thorne also described Cooper’s bedroom in detail. The walls were “covered with photographs of young male television and motion picture actors similar to the photos found on the bedroom walls of an average teenage female.” Cooper notes that these were pinups from *16 Magazine*, and therefore, legal.

Thorne’s analysis of the photographs: “a pedophile has a preoccupation with the cute, young and clean-cut male body.” He is also “engrossed totally in the child,” turned on not only by the child’s body, but “also by the type of clothing worn by the boy, clothing such as the ‘macho’-type sports uniforms of hockey, football and soccer.”

Thorne attempted to distinguish the “pure pedophile” from the child molester or incestuous parent. A pedophile

“actually courts or woos” his “victims” in a way similar to a male-female dating relationship, he said. He “usually is employed, unmarried, and gives many hours of voluntary unpaid service to community activities which involve children.” Most of the boys, he noted significantly, “eventually becoming willing victims.”

In Bergen County, NJ, alone, for the first ten months of 1984, over 100 adult males were arrested for sex with minors under 16. Thorne added: “We have found that the vast majority of the men committing these crimes against children act independently of each other and are not part of any organized pedophile group.”

**Thorne attempted to distinguish the “pure pedophile” from the actual child molester or incestuous parent.**

Hence, Thorne argued, perhaps surprisingly, such groups as NAMBLA and the Rene Guyon Society are “not a severe threat to our children.” He based this on “our intelligence on NAMBLA,” which shows there are (only) “75-100 active members.” It also shows that “approximately 1,000 NAMBLA bulletins are distributed every month. Most are sold in seven bookstores in the United States (three in New York City, one in Philadelphia, one in Atlanta, and two in Los Angeles) and in one store in Ontario, Canada.” His advice to the senators: “It is the pedophile with no organized affiliations who is the threat to our children.”

Cooper, advised of Thorne’s comment, reacted with disbelief: “Why [then] are they going whole-hog to get us?” Cooper noted that after the Senate session, Thorne told reporters that law enforcement officials are effectively monitoring pedophile groups such as NAMBLA. He boasted, “I know every member of NAMBLA.”

Thorne called on the Senate to establish a “central registry on the federal level to be responsible for the collection, organization and dissemination of pedophilia intelligence information,” presumably including material on NAMBLA. He also called for the standardization of police academy training procedures “in the area of the detection and prosecution of pedophiles.”

Another witness, Detective William Dworin (L.A.P.D.), testified that his sexually-exploited-child unit had “identified persons who are actively involved in pedophile organizations world-wide.” Like Thorne, he distinguished the boy lover from the child molester. “Unlike the total stranger who uses force or violence to molest children or the incestuous parents who might use duress, the pedophile seduces the child through affections and attention.”

He noted that “NAMBLA members openly march in gay rights parades, carrying their banners proclaiming the acceptance of man/boy love.” He asserted that the Rene Guyon Society had claimed it had 5,000 members and that the Child [sic] Sensuality Circle (CSC) in San Diego has “world-wide membership.”

(One of the consequences of the panic about child sexuality has been raids on the archives of groups such as CSC. Private research papers of both Valida Davila, CSC’s founder and long-time advocate of children’s liberation, and the group’s associate editor, David Sonenschein, were seized over the summer in raids in San Diego and Austin, Texas. Sonenschein, who published the pamphlet, *How to Have Sex with Kids*, is currently under indictment in Texas.)

Dworin also testified about other organizations. He said the (now-defunct) Paedophile Information Exchange, based in London, “distributes its newsletters” to “many members” in the United States. He described *PAN* magazine (published in Holland) as offering pedophiles “advice on avoiding apprehension.” And he described *Wonderland*, a publication of the Chicago-based Lewis Carroll Collectors Guild, as publishing “ads allowing pedophiles to contact one another.”

Dworin told the senators that although these groups operate under the guise of children’s rights, freedom of speech and the free press, they are, in fact, encouraging the sexual molestation of children. He added, “Pedophiles joining these groups are frequently placed in contact with other pedophiles.... Recognition by the pedophile that others have similar sexual interests, demonstrated by the exchange of child pornography, encourages the pedophile to act out his desire.... There is no known cure for the pedophile.”

Dworin called on law enforcement to take a “proactive stance in investigating the pedophile.” He reported that his unit “has identified persons having a sexual interest in children from United States Customs seizure lists of child pornography...and from a network of officers throughout the United States and Canada who are also investigating the pedophilic [sic] child molester.” The unit, he asserted, has “also monitored the various organizations and has identified members of these groups. Through surveillance and undercover operations the Unit has also identified juveniles frequenting the suspects’ residences and through interviews, obtained crime reports resulting in the arrest and conviction of many pedophiles.”

**Thorne told reporters that law enforcement officials are effectively monitoring pedophile groups such as NAMBLA. He boasted, “I know every member of NAMBLA.”**

He said that one of the unit’s officers, Detective Gary Lyon, acted as a consultant to “Different Strokes,” a television series that ran a program about a pedophile. After the program aired, Dworin said, over 40 cases of sexual abuse were brought to the attention of authorities across the U.S. He called for “preventive education” to protect children from being the “victims of the pedophile.”

Other government officials also testified at the hearing. Charles P. Nelson, Assistant chief Postal Inspector, reported that since 1978, a child pornography investigation conducted by the U.S. Postal Service has resulted in 143 convictions, 38 of which were obtained in fiscal 1984. He complained that child pornography traffickers have “virtually gone underground,” and “we must gain access to the distributors’ underground networks.” Despite official assertions of a “billion-dollar industry,” Nelson said “our experiences with child pornography operations do not suggest large-scale profits, at least here in the United States.”

The U.S. Senate is not the only legislative body to recently investigate NAMBLA. Two and a half months before the Senate hearings, a Pennsylvania state house committee investigating the distribution of Sonenschein’s *How to Have Sex with Kids* pamphlet heard testimony in Philadelphia from James F. Kanavy, a special agent with the Pennsylvania Crime Commission.

Kanavy intoned into the microphone the names and occupations of NAMBLA members arrested in Pennsylvania and New York. He also distributed copies of early (1981) NAMBLA publications.

Devoting his entire testimony to NAMBLA, Kanavy said the crime commission had provided information on NAMBLA to the FBI, State Department, and “other agencies as requested.” He claimed: “The State Department uncovered NAMBLA members on its staff, and has taken action to protect national security.” Shades of the 1950s...

— filed from Philadelphia  
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## “Controlled Deliveries”

The “Petit paquet” arrived in Philadelphia in December, air mail from Holland with a customs declaration of “printed matter,” and the words, “Can Be Opened Officially” in Dutch and French. It was — slashed neatly along one end of the packet, then taped poorly with scotch tape. Inside, one found a copy of the latest issue of *PAN* magazine (#20), a copy of an article by anti-pedophile nursing professor Ann W. Burgess of the University of Pennsylvania (from the *American Journal of Psychiatry*, May 1984), and a book with its original plastic wrapping removed: Theo Sandfort’s *The Sexual Aspect of Paedophile Relations*. The packet arrived unsolicited.

In a TV program *The Silent Shame* which aired last summer on NBC, U.S. officials had announced they were opening all packages from Holland and Denmark in the quest for child pornography and pedophiles. Already 2000 names of “child pornography” recipients have been entered into computers by customs officials in Chicago, and New York officials were reported to be entering another 4,000 names there. In November, U.S. Customs Commissioner William Von Raab told the Senate Permanent Investigations Subcommittee that half of all 4266 federal seizures of pornography made in fiscal 1984 involved the “exploitation of children.”

Von Raab went on to describe a primary investigative technique: “controlled deliveries.” “This is one of our most common and successful investigative tools, and involves delivery of mailed material to recipients under control of the postal inspectors and customs agents. This technique is utilized by our agents when there is a likelihood of obtaining additional evidence at the violators [sic] business or residence. We have made dozens of controlled deliveries leading to numerous arrests and indictments of offenders, substantial seizures of pornographic materials, and successful prosecutions.”

Von Raab told senators he had with him “a copy of a child pornography magazine, published in the Netherlands. This particular magazine is dated July, 1984. On page 5, there is an article which says, and I quote, ‘The U.S. Customs Service is compiling a computerized ‘target list’ of boy-lovers who receive confiscatable erotic material from overseas.’ The article asks rhetorically if all of this is legal, but it is clearly meant as a warning to its readers that we are hot on their trails.”

The magazine Von Raab cited is *Paedo Alert News (PAN)*, “a magazine about boy-love,” Issue #19. A child pornography magazine? One that is, in fact, openly on sale at gay bookstores around the U.S. A magazine without any nudity.

One clue to future raids and seizures: Von Raab claimed that Reagan’s new child porn law, signed in a Rose Garden ceremony last May, “eliminates the requirement that the material depict children actually engaged in sexual activity for the material to be seized. The mere suggestion of sexual activity is now sufficient to constitute a violation.” But that requirement never existed; simulated sexual activity has been banned since 1978. Perhaps Customs is now going to seize non-pornographic magazines like *PAN* on the grounds of “inere suggestion of sexual activity.”

— Daniel Tsang  
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# Community Voices

## rocking against sexism

Dear *GCN*

If some of you rock 'n' roll fans and musicians out there are bristling at the feminine "ideal" that the likes of Madonna, Pat Benatar and the Go Go's are supposed to represent, then you should come talk to us. Rock Against Sexism (R.A.S.) has been a vibrant, critical force over the past 3½ years in its efforts to support and promote non-sexist rock 'n' roll and other political art in this community. Now it's time to let more of you in on what waves we've been making.

Some of the activities credited to R.A.S.'s colorful past include: a multi-media cultural event at Mass. College of Art, tea dances at the 1270, a benefit concert for the Women's Peace Encampment at Seneca Falls, the publication of a number of provocative newsletters, and live gigs featuring politically-atuned local bands. Most recently, R.A.S. staged an anti-Reagan satire in the form of guerilla theatre, held on the Boston Common and the City Hall Plaza. The "Fascists for Reagan" performance sprang from the same urgent need that many of us felt this past fall, that we had to do *something* drastic to undermine Reagan's reelection, on whatever scale.

Because of the neo-conservatism that has this country and its airwaves in a headlock, we see R.A.S.'s role over the next couple of years to be a crucial one in the nurturing of more radical, politicized artforms. We view popular music, especially rock 'n' roll, funk and rap, as a potent medium for political change. We have seen the rallying power of '60s music. Now it's time for the progressive music of the '80s to reanimate the political sensibilities of those lulled into numbing inaction by mainstream rock and other modes of entertainment. Whether it be through the persuasion of a melody or the raucous thump of an irresistible dancebeat, rock 'n' roll can cause a *stir*.

Rock Against Sexism hopes to continue accomplishing these principal goals:

- To raise the consciousness of musicians, listening audiences, and the music industry to sexist traditions in rock 'n' roll.
- To support and showcase women's and non-sexist bands and their music, not generally promoted by the commercial media.
- To provide a comfortable playing, listening and dance space for people who don't like or can't get into many of the clubs because of age, race, sexuality or the price (i.e. elitist door policies). R.A.S. events will be wheelchair-accessible whenever possible.
- To give exposure to rock 'n' roll that is an alternative to music hopelessly offensive to women, gays and people of color.
- To hold workshops and information exchanges, some especially for women, that demystify equipment, technology and the music industry in general.
- To promote unity and cooperation among the various musical and political scenes in Boston.

Now you can have a voice as to what gets heard — help us achieve some of these goals in the upcoming months. We are looking for people who are as disgusted with the onslaught of MTV, with its powerful mythmaking devices that earn profits at the expense of women's sense of self-worth and other feminist ideals. Come join us, then, in the celebration of performers like the Au Pairs, November Group, Wall of Voodoo, the Poison Girls, the Alarm, Crass, Salem 66, Feminine Protection, X, Toshi Reagon, Vas Deferens, Romeo Void, Gil Scott-Heron, and the Talking Heads.

The list goes on. We are very likely leaving out some important local, national or international artists. Tell us who we are overlooking. Do you find the music played in clubs and in the media aesthetically limited or politically unsatisfying? Tell us about it! Over the past year, we have lost some of our active members, and we'd like your help. We need more participating members in R.A.S. to help plan events, interface with our sister group, Rock Against Racism, contribute editorial, graphics, photography, etc. to our next newsletter. Come brainstorm with us; don't just sit by your radio or T.V. and seethe. We'll put you on our mailing list. Write us with any ideas or suggestions at: Rock Against Sexism, 464 Harrison Ave., Basement, Boston, MA 02118.

Lucy Friedland for  
ROCK AGAINST SEXISM  
Boston, MA

*GCN* welcomes letters to the editor. If possible, they should be TYPED and DOUBLESPPCED, and where possible limited to five typed pages. They should be sent to: Community Voices, *GCN*, 167 Tremont St. #5, Boston, MA 02111.

## less politics, more culture

Dear *GCN*

I am so sick of reading about anti-Falwell pickets. I too once picketed Falwell in Minneapolis. But I long ago realized that Falwell has no power and is not a threat to gay people. He is an illusion for people who want to fight rather than deal with their own self-oppression. Gandhi said "the worst evil in the world is inside us."

I am so sick of reading about straight politicians in gay newspapers. I am so sick of reading about the gay rights movement. I long ago named it change straight people movement. Gay activists are the most unhappy and neurotic group of people I have ever known. No wonder they spend their lives battling institutions like the church, who have tried to destroy us for centuries. Gay activists say to straights we are just like you except for what we do in bed. I think about the only thing we have in common with straight people is what we do in bed.

I saw the film about Harvey Milk and wondered why there was no mention of Jack Lira. Lira, who was Milk's lover, committed suicide just months before Milk's assassination. We are so obsessed with Dan White's crime that we cannot look honestly at Milk's life. The film gives you the impression everything in Milk's life was great until he was shot to death. Milk came home from work to find that Jack Lira had hung himself. I am sure the filmmakers thought to mention this fact would make us look bad. Again what straight people think of us is more important than the truth.

I wonder if *GCN* could put out a whole issue dedicated to gay culture and social life? How many issues have you done the reverse and had all politics and no culture? Or how about putting politics on the back page for just one issue? We need to build our community institutions and stop worrying about straight people.

Philip Willkie  
St. Paul, MN

## dumping on boston

Dear *GCN*

I take it you have heard that Phil Gramm ran about the most homophobic campaign anyone around here can remember and was elected to the U.S. Senate. Well, brace yourselves. January *Texas Monthly* (p. 99) reports:

While campaigning for the U.S. Senate, Phil Gramm suggested that Boston would be an ideal place for a nuclear waste disposal site because the waste must be dumped in an area where there is "no production or human activity of any great or high importance that would be disrupted."

Sincerely,  
Lars Eighner  
Austin, TX

### Subscriptions/Renewals

Sometimes our renewal and "Don't Stop Now" notices cross your checks in the mail or get sent out late, and sometimes, it seems, the demons in the computer give us renewal labels that are just plain wrong.

So, before you panic about one of these notices, check the label ("left = \_") on your brown envelope. It's more likely to be accurate. If that too doesn't look like the right number of issues left, send us a nice note (with a xerox of your check, if that's possible), and we'll fix it up. Thanx.

### Supporting AAC

In recognition of the work of the AIDS Action Committee and their efforts to keep the community informed of important events regarding AIDS, *GCN* is introducing a campaign to offset their advertising costs. Any donation made to *GCN* and directed towards the AIDS Action Committee will be matched by the paper and will be used exclusively for display advertisements. All contributions will be acknowledged by the Committee.

Please send donations to:  
*GCN/AAC*  
167 Tremont Street #5  
Boston, MA 02111  
Thank you from both *GCN* and the AIDS Action Committee.

## success in '84

Dear *GCN*

Now that the air has cleared after the November election, it is time to answer the all-important question: Did gays win or lose in 1984?

While there were some disappointments, the conclusive results of the election indicate that support for basic human rights for gays will continue to grow roots and blossom in the coming years.

In terms of numbers, we did very well in this election. Every one of the 76 voting congressional co-supporters of the Gay Rights Bill was returned to Congress. This is not just a plus for the Gay Rights Bill, but it also means that other important issues — funding for AIDS research, rights to employment and housing, and immigration — can be addressed and strengthened in the coming months.

But there is another important outcome of this election that isn't reflected merely in the number of election victories. We saw in many races that voters of every stripe can and will support the issues of gay rights and refuse to fall prey to election hype, manipulations and distortions.

Many stereotypes of voters — held by gays and straights alike — were shattered in this election. The election of Gerry Studds and the defeat of Daniel Crane provide perhaps the two most compelling examples of this fact.

Gerry Studds is the only openly gay member of the House of Representatives. A year ago when he was censured by that body, Gerry openly declared his sexual orientation on the floor of the House. As a result of that announcement and his censure, Studds faced an enormous challenge in his re-election bid. Nationally, the gay and lesbian community responded with unprecedented support, and the Human Rights Campaign Fund gave him the maximum contribution permitted by law.

Studds' district is the most Republican in a Democratic-dominated state. Although Massachusetts was the only state to support McGovern over Nixon in 1972, the 10th district went solidly for Nixon. It supported Reagan over Carter by a wide margin in 1980. The district is spotted with small towns and its largest city, New Bedford, is predominantly working class, Roman Catholic Portuguese fishermen and their families. In short, it is an area populated by very traditional people — who most of us would probably not expect to support an openly gay candidate.

But the results show that support for human rights and gay people can transcend traditional stereotypes. Gerry spoke openly and forthrightly about his sexual orientation; his constituents responded with a respect for his views and for Gerry Studds as a person. As a result of his courage and honesty and his outstanding record as a member of Congress, Gerry Studds was re-elected by a convincing margin.

Also a year ago, Daniel Crane, a conservative representative from Illinois, was censured for having an affair with a female page. But he followed a vastly different path in dealing with that personally and politically difficult situation and received a vastly different response from voters.

Crane also comes from a strongly Republican district. But he may very well have lost his race because of the way he chose to manipulate those stereotypes and biases. He hid his alleged indiscretion behind a mask that distorts human rights and attempts to decide for others what is moral and decent behavior. Daniel Crane's constituents opportunely saw through this pretense and penalized him for attempting to deceive them — they did not return him to office.

The Studds and Crane races are not the only examples of the changing, underlying current in the electorate. In many races around the country, voters refused to allow gay-baiting to prejudice their choices.

The 1984 elections showed decidedly that American voters can vote their conscience and not fall into lock-step with the fundamentalist far right.

This means that gays can build a more visible and accepted political presence in the months ahead; we can forge new alliances and coalitions to strengthen our movement.

As we rejoice in our ability to spread our message, we must also recognize the importance of vigilantly guarding and protecting our victories. Anti-gay propagandists will continue to work the back acre to plant their own decaying seeds of hatred and oppression.

But the elections of 1984 — and particularly the victory of Gerry Studds — should stand as a constant symbol that advocacy for gay rights should be vocal and unhindered by political expediency or fear.

Vic Basile  
Human Rights Campaign Fund  
Washington, DC

Have a Question?  
BOSTON LESBIAN AND  
GAY HOTLINE  
6pm-11pm, Mon-Fri  
(617) 426-9371

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# Speaking Out

## Why Aren't More Gay Men Feminists?

By Aubrey Wertheim

(This speech was presented at a forum hosted by the New York University Womyn's Center on "Men and Feminism" on November 14, 1984.)

When first asked to speak tonight on gay men and feminism, I was at a loss as to where to hang my theme. The first idea that sprang to mind was a sort of Roger Corman marquee: "The Return of the Lavender Menace." For those belonging to the post-'60s generation (most of you), "the Lavender Menace" was the term affixed to lesbians for the threat they posed to the women's movement that re-emerged in the 1960s. Untraditionally, though, after considerable struggle, feminists refused to disassociate their cause from that of their lesbian sisters and, confronting their own homophobia, began the commitment to lesbian concerns and struggles which is now an established and substantial part of modern feminist agenda. A revival of this trial-by-fire could clearly singe the men's movement as it struggles to its feet and deals with similar accusations and dauntingly stronger internalized homophobia; but the issue has been addressed in the Organization for Changing Men Conferences as well as by other speakers tonight — so "Lavender Menace II" though not yet bagged is definitely being grappled with.

Another choice of topic came with the suggestion I deal with Misogyny in Gay Men, which is, I believe, a more modern recycling of the myth that gay-men-hate-women-because-deep-down-inside-we-want-to-be-women-and-if-we-can't-be-nobody-should. Right. I didn't address this, because basically I don't buy it. Misogyny is a very deliberate and ambitious irratiionale thriving on the conflict of interests in a system required to make women objects of attraction and detraction simultaneously. It's hardly suprising any number of hostilities and phobias result, but gay men being often on the receiving end of that antagonism can hardly be indicted as its main perpetrators or champions. While sexism in gay men is clearly a debilitating and divisive force in our community, it's more directly linked to issues of separatism and self-interest which, though no less deplorable, are more easily recognized and addressed.

But taking a harder look at that second proposition, a more intriguing query arises and makes sounds indicating considerable potential. This being, but why aren't more gay men feminists? And why aren't our organizations — which sadly remain for the most part still strongly male-dominated in agenda and membership — as influenced by feminism as the feminist movement has been by our cause? The second question finds its answer more readily. The women's movement, preceding ours, created an environment that is immeasurably more supportive of lesbian needs, both personal and political, and created what continues to be a greatly frustrating Catch-22 of the gay/lesbian movement: the failure to address lesbian needs profoundly and persuasively/the lack of broad-based lesbian support and involvement to sponsor the required sensitivity and sophistication.

But what about your average gay-man-on-the-street, why is he so rarely feminist-identified? It's curious. So many factors predispose us toward feminism. The same tactics invariably are used against us both:

**Discrimination.** From the ever-popular "Crimes Against Nature" to the more abstract "Voluntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse" to the good old Puritan standby, "Bugger," 23 states still make gay activity an imprisonable felony or misdemeanor. These laws in turn taint policy in housing, employment, education — and one state alone has gone so far as to articulate state-wide protection of gays and lesbians in all areas of potential discrimination.

**Sexual harassment.** Continuous from seemingly before one can differentiate between the sexes much less sexualities. Listen to how early boys master the language of gay baiting not even knowing exactly what a faggot is, yet totally hooked into its authority as the ultimate insult. Listen to how often men punctuate their conversations with verbal victimization of effeminacy and gayness, how they police each other's actions and self-expression with constant homophobic gesture and slur, yet the idea of a gay man registering a grievance regarding sexual harassment or going so far as to take legal action surely strikes most as patently absurd.

**Religious persecution.** Both historic — we've burned together — and present-day. And we needn't be so coy as to call it "traditional historical bias," whether it's most established religions in all their high-drag pomp or the more outrageous vaudeville of televangelism and the fundamentalists, the message is the same: in the name (though hardly in the spirit) of spirituality, distortion and stereotype are used to dehumanize, stigmatize and ostracize us from our faiths, the families we all belong to, the regions we grew up in. Talk to gay people and see how many of us were driven from homes and biological families due to religiously-

sponsored intolerance. Any term but "persecution" is an insult to them and their exile.

**Last, violence.** Gay men are more visible in the past ten years than ever before in our history. Through gay-identified fashions, neighborhoods, businesses and socializing environments, the target has moved sharply into focus, thus fagbashing arises as a popular sport. You only have to listen to the response of victims — "I shouldn't have been there," "I shouldn't have worn that," "I can't go to the police, they'd say it was my fault" — to see how quickly parallels can be drawn to women. Add to this arson, prison assault, police brutality, medical neglect or malpractice, child abuse of the effeminate. The incredible potential of infliction rarely ventures far from consciousness once we're out in the world.

What then, given all these points of intersection between women and gay men, prevents so many of us from realizing feminism fully, realizing it at all? Perhaps the answer lies in examining that point where gay men and all women part company — which is that we can pass. This physiological quandary which separates gays from so many other minorities also plays a divisive part within our own ranks. A lesbian assumed a "regular woman" still holds a secondary status in this society, but a gay man assumed to be and processed as straight discovers all the attendant preferential treatment afforded the party in power. This dual citizenship — this being of one country, yet for most residing in, trading with and practicing the customs of another — produces a unique and exacting conflict whereby in the momentary perjury of a pronoun, a gay man can gain entree to all the glittering prizes; not just the cliched High Gothic ones of mastery in one's chosen profession and great financial plunder, but the more pedestrian comforts of traditional church involvement, biological family acceptance (and the fathering of one's own family), military service, etc., etc.

It takes no sociologist to observe what toll this takes on gay men whether the package is bought wholeheartedly — becoming one with one's oppressor — or in pieces — merely customizing straight male biases, fetishes and failure: the voice of the embittered, the gesture of self-destruction so often witnessed among our number. If we look at the number of men who are truly, profoundly out of the closet, then compare it to even the most conservative figures of the gay male population, we could say as high as 95 percent of gay men straight-identify themselves to the world and personally pursue no great commitment to our community. Is it so surprising then how slowly we incorporate feminist perspective and aspiration?

But not to paint myself and all gay men into a black hole with no hope of redemption, I think despite all the factors impeding new allegiances, despite the current conservatism which endorses the closet for so many — most disturbingly our new generations —, more and more men are coming out courageously, emphatically, on all fronts. And more are in touch enough to define themselves as feminists. But even those who don't, look to their lives:

- gay men in social work, public education and community action careers working for recognition of gay/lesbian issues,
- gay men working with lesbians to create the network of support services in practically every state,
- the rise of the gay fathers movement to a place of national prominence,
- the thousands of gay men who've volunteered in the health crisis to befriend, care for and bury their stricken brothers.

All this bespeaks a tremendous consciousness of nurturance which knows little correspondence in traditional male roles. If some are not feminists by name, this is surely feminism in action. Our liberation is still in its infancy. Self-determination does not come overnight. But, please, stand by us: gay men and feminists will come to terms.

"Speaking Out" is part of our continuing effort to provide a true forum of opinion for the community. We encourage you to send your ideas, feelings and comments to us and we encourage you to respond to any ideas expressed in this space. Submissions to "Speaking Out" should be TYPED and DOUBLE SPACED, and, if possible, held to under 5 pages in length. The opinions expressed in "Speaking Out" do not necessarily reflect the views of the newspaper, the staff or the advertisers. Write c/o Speaking Out, GCN, 167 Tremont St., 5th Fl., Boston, MA 02111.

## Community Voices

### faceless and unaccountable

Dear GCN,

These are discouraging times for those of us who cherish civil liberties, especially for those concerned about the rights of prisoners. Overcrowded conditions, a tough "law and order" climate of opinion whipped up by the media and a lack of fair play by the officials contribute to the problem.

Isaiah Gathings, a prisoner at the Federal Correctional Institution at Danbury, Connecticut, is in Administrative Segregation because his life has been threatened by two other prisoners for refusing their sexual advances. Gathings feels very strongly that if he is released into population his life will be in danger. He has requested a transfer to another institution. While other prisoners are being transferred within the federal system at the whim of the authorities, Gathings is being denied a transfer. Such arbitrary action by prison officials poses one of the most serious problems prisoners confront. It is a faceless and, as far as prisoners are concerned, unaccountable system.

Frustration leads to despair and/or violence. If you are concerned, write Mr. Norman Carlson, Director, Federal Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. 20534, and suggest that Gathing's request be granted. Be polite but firm in your letter. Giving relief to one prisoner will not change the system, but it does show that some people care what happens and should make prison officials less likely to act as though they live in a world of their own.

Sincerely,  
Larry Gara

### kansas help!

Dear GCN,

Well, these people are at it again. They've beaten Ron Smith 6524, Charlie Dill 36117, and David Leaverton. They're all in strip cells with no clothes, lights, or bedding, and the toilet turned off.

I have filed some suits but my legal research is all strictly from my head at this point. I have no law books in custody here. I have been threatened and told if I help them in anyway I will be done the same way. But I am hoping to rely on the case of Johnson v. Avery, US 1969 or 70 giving one inmate the right to help another where no other help is afforded.

The administration are all condoning this action by reason of the recent Supreme Court decision stating anything can be done where "security" is at risk (in their judgement).

Will you please print the important parts of this letter and send copies to any organizations and try to get some outside support for us in here? This is a life-threatening situation. We are being used as the guinea pigs for behavioral modification and control programs.

If there is any way to get legal help to us, please do so as soon as possible. I can't get any help from Legal Services for Prisoners here at the prison because they are controlled by the prison administration and the state of Kansas, who I and others are fighting against.

In struggle and unity,  
LaVille Hannon  
14594  
Box 2,  
Lansing, KS 66043

### GCN Job Openings

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## Life in the Margin

# “Controversial” Sex Forum

By Donna Turley

It is easy to forget while living in the margin of the marginal that for many people expressions of sexuality are confined by the social constructions of a heterosexual world. The institutional paradigm of sex prevents people from seeking pleasure in nontraditional ways. For some people, this means they don't explore their potentially rich fantasies. For others, it may mean they conform their sexual actions, speech, and thoughts to the doctrines espoused by the community to which they belong. Paradoxically, this is true even for homosexuals in a heterosexual world, who will always be defined by the sexual majority as sexual deviants, no matter how they act in bed. Parts of the lesbian and gay communities have also created their own sets of heterosexual imitative judgments and rules which dictate antiseptic sex. Lesbians and gays who break the rules, having already been cast out by most heterosexuals, risk rejection from other “deviants” seeking assimilation and acceptance by the sexual majority.

The meaning of controversial sex is not ubiquitous. Its concept

varies from subculture to subculture. In December, Black Rose, a Boston-based anarchist collective, sponsored a panel discussion entitled “Controversial Sex: Expressions of Sexuality.” The “controversial” topics of the evening were monogamy, lesbian S/M, man-boy love, and promiscuity. Judging by the reactions of an audience one half gay and probably all self-defined as radical, only sex involving gay men is controversial.

### *Judging by the audience's reactions, only sex involving gay men is controversial.*

Anne Kotel, a member of the Black Rose collective, started off the evening with a presentation of monogamy. It is ironic that a woman was chosen to argue in favor of a subject whose promotion has been traditionally assigned to women whose economic means of existence has historically been bound by marriage and the family. Kotel was also the only

heterosexual on the panel, leaving one with the specious assumption that the only controversial sex in the straight community is monogamy. The absence of other heterosexual panelists seemed to impute all controversial sex to the lesbians and gay men. It would have been more interesting and provocative to hear a straight man discussing monogamy, or a presentation by a heterosexual pedophile, an advocate of heterosexual S/M.

Kotel defined monogamy as the “state or custom of being involved in one committed ongoing relationship at a time.” Although she asserted that she wanted to expose monogamy as an option for a rewarding sexual style, most of her talk concentrated on the failures of non-monogamy and how time considerations make monogamy easier and non-monogamy frustrating. Kotel claimed that people reject monogamy because they are driven to have their sexiness reaffirmed, they are painfully lonely, it may be the only way they can safely relate to others, or they seek peer approval in the radical subculture. She questioned whether non-monogamy is really radical behavior, and commented that “discovering who you really are or want to be and finding or inventing the way you want to live is being radical or fundamental in your approach, even if your way of living...partially resembles traditional forms. If it is chosen for your own good reasons, you stand on firmer ground.”

Beryl Hoffstein, co-founder and co-editor of *Outrageous Women*, and one of the founding members of Urania, a S/M support group for lesbians and bisexual women, spoke about the difference between lesbian S/M and abuse. She too started by defining her subject. S/M is a “mutually agreed upon exchange of power for mutual pleasure.” Hoffstein claimed that there is no difference between sadomasochism and bondage/discipline or dominance/submission, asserting that the other terms are used only to soften and deflate the idea in an erotophobic culture. She listed a number of myths surrounding S/M. These include the belief that people who engage in S/M play out their roles 24 hours a day, that the masochist is weak and gullible, that the sadist is unbalanced, cruel, and full of hate, that S/M spoils you for any other type of sex, and that all women who participate in sado-masochist sex had traumatic childhoods. She reassured the audience that those who engage in S/M generally only do so during a “scene” and do not want to have scenes with everybody.

There is a physiological reaction to pain in our bodies which duplicates the sensations experienced during arousal and which, Hoffstein claims, helps to explain the pleasure derived from S/M sex. She said that S/M provides a vacation from reality where we can act out our fantasies and let go of control in a safe way. S/M is a right-brain activity using the creative, symbolic, non-verbal parts of ourselves which few of us exercise in the other areas of our lives. The necessary negotiations for the exchange of power and pleasure keep communications open between the participants and encourage intense affection.

Hoffstein also addressed the political objections to S/M in the lesbian community, particularly

the charge that it is male-identified, based on a patriarchal paradigm, and therefore, bad. She said that power in society generally belongs to men and is nontransferable. In contrast, during lesbian S/M, both the sadist and the masochist have control and can exchange the power. Power is a human characteristic which is not good or bad in itself. It should not be parceled out by gender. Hoffstein argued that lesbian S/M allows women to intimately experience power.

“The Personal and Political Implications of Men Loving Boys in America” was the topic of Tom Reeves' speech. Reeves is a founding member of the North American Man-Boy Love Association and a member of the *Fag Rag* collective. After defining himself as a communitarian anarchist, he stated that “sex is good, good for children and other human beings. Without it, we cease to exist as human beings.” Sex is not only biological, but also a psychological social phenomenon. It is polymorphous and integral to every relationship. Reeves explained that every individual is a composite of various cultural and psychological “scripts.” Initially, we have to accept the scripts imposed on us, but as we grow, we “chuck out” the ones we do not like. Those who engage in unconventional sex challenge the right of society to assign them scripts.

### *Radicals, just like everyone else, refuse to think of women as sexual in their own right, or of sex between women as political and provocative, rather than merely titillating.*

The two greatest forces in America are young people and sexuality, Reeves stated. The traditional institutions of control, the family and school have been undermined in recent years and have forced a change in strategies for control. One result has been the increase in the segregation and professionalization of the “handling of children,” thereby extending the myth of the innocent child. Another result has been the segregation and containment of gay sexuality, creating a “gay minority within a ghetto” in an attempt to eviscerate the radical gays. Reeves pointed out that recent sex scandals were created by those seeking to control both forces. He noted the increase in the arrests of gay men for public sex, the fact that today there are over 250 men in prison in Massachusetts for non-coercive, nonviolent sex with boys whereas two years ago they numbered only 110, and that “in Bridgewater State Hospital for the Criminally Insane there are 45 boys between the ages of 12 and 18 who are accused of nonviolent sexual activity...with other boys.”

Reeves speculated that the recent purge of daycare centers is an attempt at further repression and control. He said that “It is an ongoing campaign to focus on sex while ignoring real physical abuse.” He claimed that the witch hunts at the centers are part of the general hysteria surrounding sex, brought on by liberals seeking funding in this Reagan era. More likely, the investigations stem from a conservative trend and will produce reactionary paranoia, the closing of childcare centers, and the forcing of women back into the home.

Reeves questioned where the radical community had been during the attacks on sexuality.

“There is an erotic component in all relationships between adults and children,” he claimed. Societies which bury the erotic element in teaching and child-rearing do so to increase order, competition, and the efficiency of socially controlled violence. Reeves summarized by saying, “children and adolescents are part of our political and sexual quest for freedom and spontaneity.”

Pete Wilson, one of the founders of the Gay Liberation Movement in New York, spoke very briefly on “Sexual Identity and Sexual Promiscuity.” Most people claim that good sex must include commitment, meaning, and caring and do not think that promiscuity can encompass these attributes. Wilson questioned whether the degree of each can be measured by time. He said that when he is participating in public sex, he is “fully engaged at that point in time with the person, no less than [when] he is with a lover of five years.”

Wilson believes that the current health crisis in the gay community will have an extremely negative impact on men relating to each other sexually. He speculated that we will see many men retreat into the closet with the notion that feelings are one thing but actually having sex with another man is “sinful.” It is a tragedy that young gay men will believe that no sex is okay,” he said.

Despite the so-called controversial nature of each topic, the question and answer period at the end proved that the new sexual enlightenment had not dawned during the two hours. Most of the audience who participated either questioned the propriety of man-boy love or asked questions about AIDS. Despite the assertion that gay sex is not the equivalent of AIDS, that sex is not dangerous but that the disease is, the reassurances did not seem to quell the homophobia. The relative absence of challenges to Hoffstein and Kotel was indicative of a misogynist refusal to give serious consideration to women and sex. Radicals, just like everybody else, refuse to think of women as sexual in their own right, or of sex between women as political and provocative, rather than merely titillating. Lesbianism is sexually and politically a fundamental challenge to a patriarchy enmeshed with capitalism. It is women taking control of their own bodies, pleasures, and the progeny of society. If taken seriously, nothing is more controversial.

## Typos

Two typographical mistakes need correcting in Gayle Rubin's essay, “Anti-Porn Laws and Women's Liberation” (GCN, Vol. 12, No. 23). In the fourth paragraph, the fifth sentence should read: “I would be surprised if the other lesbian sex publications have not encountered similar difficulties.”

In the sixteenth paragraph, the eleventh sentence should say: “In this society, we rarely see actual sex rather than its visual metaphors and euphemisms.”

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# Poses and Possibilities in P'town

By David R. Yalen

Can't get out of bed, I'm supposed to be leaving by now! My legs and back are stiff and sore from working out yesterday. Very sore. I get up out of bed thinking about my first trip to legendary P-Town.

## Coming Out

I insist on filling only a large gym bag. Don't bring anything too hot, nothing too boring. It's only two days. I plastic-wrap all my medicines and don't forget the vaseline, K-Y and the rubbers. I even remember to pack my vitamins and Amino Acid Protein Pills (all that working out don't you know).

Finally I'm on the Mass. Pike and exactly three hours and two traffic jams later I arrive in P-Town. Even the cars seem gayer, once you pass Wellfleet. In Truro I was cruising a convertible from New Jersey containing four very good-looking young men. Four guys in one little car, they must be fags! From New Jersey yet, eh? They gave me the once-over when they passed me. I follow my directions in the *Bay Windows* ad toward "Cals' Guest House."

Cal is very nice but also very sorry because he's full. I could have sworn the sign out front said "Vacancies," but he calls "Heavenly House" across the street and they have a room for me. I am requested to ask for Brad, which I do, and to mention that Cal sent me, which I do too. A referral network or an old boys club, I suppose.

They've three rooms to choose from, and the middle-priced seems fine. They even take American Express cards which luckily I didn't leave home without. They also have a pool which I immediately take advantage of. I decide my Speedo suit is sexy enough, I don't need the skimpy black posing suit I brought. Maybe I'll wear that at the beach, later. I dive into the water and it feels so good and cold. I breast-stroke my way under water to the other side of the pool without coming up for air. I always assume this makes me look so athletic, and then I realize the pool is only around thirty feet long — what a jock!

I decide I'm ready for a walk down Commercial Street and a bite of lunch. So I put on my gym shorts and my South End Gym tee and go out the door, clutching my wallet like a debutante's tiny little clutch purse. (I guess that's where they got the name.) Anyway, I don't have any pockets so what's a boy to do?

How do you tell who's gay and who's not? No one's holding hands (a sure giveaway). We don't want any unfortunate incidents, do we? I don't cruise too obviously, just smile a lot. A lunch place comes into view. It looks OK, so I go in. Right away I see a table of Drag Queens in summer sun dresses, how cute, with hunky escorts. I like the place already. Later I get a 3-speed bike with a wicker basket for all my required accessories, it is so fey!

Back to the Heavenly House and I change into my still-wet Speedo and pack my notebook and an *In-Touch* magazine and a *GQ*. Then I discard the *GQ* since I'm going to my first gay beach and I figure I'll do it up right! No safe magazine to hide the offending pornography. The beach is further than I thought but it's still a nice bike ride. I remember the guest-house managers' advice and go well to the left of the Beach house. I keep walking, not sure if I'm at the beach yet. Maybe

there'll be a sign, I think...." Achtung, achtung, you are now approaching the gay zone, children and families approach at your own risk!"... When I see, first, a topless female with huge dangling breasts, second, a male couple hugging, and third, for good measure, a group of dykes on a blanket, I decide I have arrived!

Unfortunately it's already well past 3 pm, but, so what. I bypass a bearded lean machine in a tiny black bikini. I sit sort of by myself. I don't want to look like I'm trying to be too forward or cruising someone. The lean guy promptly reveals a lot of muscular skin as he moves around, changing into street clothes. I'm sorry I hadn't plopped down right next to him.

## How do you tell who's gay and who's not?

He looks at me, and leaves. I go on to my *In-Touch* magazine feeling OK but still inhibited and a little foolish. It doesn't seem as wickedly Sodom and Gomorraish as I had expected (or wished). Then a large group of single young men, who I assume are straight, walk by en masse yelling out something about "Male meat market" and "In-Touch Magazine." I'm momentarily passive enough to feel stupid for reading that stuff in public but then I feel they're on "our" beach, so fuck 'em. They're probably closet queens themselves; why else are they at a gay beach anyway? Back to my sleeping, dreaming and reading. A long trip to the snack bar is only interrupted by my regrets at not offering to get the guys in front of me anything, sort of as a conversation starter. When I return, I walk all the way across to the far end of the beach to cruise and to see who's who and what's what. A few smiles, some nice bodies and buns and that's it. By the time I return to my towel the couple in front of me is only a single and he is in the water.

So I go in, too, watch him go out and follow him to my towel, sure he'll notice me and say something, anything. But as I stare at him he looks away and I refuse to say the only thing that's popped into my head, "...water sure is cold, isn't it?" Instead I decide to start writing this story. I don't really notice or care anymore that I'm basically alone by then. I stop writing when I realize how cold I am and how badly I have to go to the bathroom.

Dinner is terrible: I wander by so many places and discard each one. Too gay. Not gay enough. Too cheap. Too expensive. Finally in a quiet spot a small restaurant appears. I go in, it seems safe. Quiet. I think I see two guys eating together but it's a man and a woman. Why are there so many families with teenage boys in a supposed gay resort? I'm getting tired of listening to the kids whisper to their parents about the gays and fags. And why are they looking at me when they say it? What do they expect in Provincetown?

If you look at them too long they think you're cruising them. But if you don't look at them, you never know who is straight and who is gay. I guess I'll be able to tell in a flash pretty soon, but right now I can't.

It's only 11:45 pm! At first I go back to my room to write some more. Then I decide to follow the noise across the street.

Ordering a drink at a gay bar is hard. Do you want to create an image or just drink whatever you want? Order Perrier and have everyone think you're having a Gin and Tonic. Get a beer, drink right out of the bottle and look like a tough guy. White or red wine

seems dainty, but it's one of my favorite drinks. Decisions. I go downstairs to the disco. I look around and smile, maybe I'll even summon up the courage to ask someone to dance, but that's doubtful. A shortish guy in a turquoise tank top looks nice and unattached. I look at the guy standing next to me. Ehh? I decide it's not worth the effort. As usual I watch someone long enough until someone else asks them to dance, thus relieving me of the chore. Tonight it's the turquoise guy, snapped up in a hurry by a tall guy who must like short ones. Oh well. So it goes until I walk up to the porch area and sit on the railing. Good spot. You can see everyone coming and going. And I can see

the pool at my guest house across the street.

I want to go swimming back at the guest house. It would be a great line for picking someone up, but then what would you do afterward? You'd be obligated to each other. You'd have to take him home for the night. There's no real etiquette in gay culture on this matter. No mating rites, no do's or don'ts to follow. When you're growing up in a straight world and you think you're straight also, you have certain duties as a young male animal to get to Nirvana: 4th base,

*Continued on page 11*

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top photo: banana plantation workers and their children;  
lower photo: Commandante Dora Maria Tellez;  
photos by Catherine Joseph

## SOMOS HERMANAS INSPIRATION FROM

By Malkah Barrsey Feldman

From September 25 through October 5, *Somos Hermanas* (We are sisters), a national, multi-racial delegation of eighteen women, went to Nicaragua during the seventh anniversary of AMNLAE, the Nicaraguan women's movement association. During their visit, they were able to learn first hand the impact of the Nicaraguan revolution on the lives of Nicaraguan women.

The tour was sponsored by the Alliance Against Women's Oppression (AAWO), a national, multi-racial organization of women involved in issues of international solidarity, reproductive rights and the Rainbow Coalition. While the AAWO initiated the tour to Nicaragua in conjunction with the AMNLAE, the delegation was composed of women activists from many movements. Of the four Boston women chosen for the delegation, two are interviewed here. They are: Catherine Joseph, a Black lesbian-feminist active in the Lesbian and Gay constituency of the Boston Rainbow Coalition, and Claire Gosselin, a white, working-class woman active in AAWO.

The interview was conducted by Malkah Barssey Feldman, who has been working with the *Somos Hermanas* collective as a support person.

**Malkah:** Could you describe the *Somos Hermanas* delegation?

**Catherine:** The women came from Boston, Washington, D.C., New York, San Francisco, and Oakland, California. We included both lesbian and heterosexual women. AMNLAE (the Association of Nicaraguan Women, Luisa Amanda Espinosa) hosted our trip and arranged our tour.

**Claire:** There was really a broad range of political involvement. Women were coming out of the anti-intervention, anti-imperialist movement, the anti-racist struggle, as well as the lesbian and gay movement and the women's movement generally. We were also a multi-racial group: three quarters of us were women of color.

**Malkah:** Why did you want to go to Nicaragua?

**Catherine:** I went because I wanted to see what a revolutionary government looks like. I wanted to understand that process of transforming a society. I wanted to see how the Nicaraguan people were managing to survive, despite all the acts of aggression against them.

**Claire:** I wanted to see what the Nicaraguan people were up against and what they were able to achieve. I wanted to see the direction of their revolution.

Nicaragua has been a poor country, whose economy has been built around serving the interest of the United States historically. I thought it would be interesting to see how they're breaking out of this dependent/colonial type

of relationship to the United States.

I was also looking to be somewhat inspired. From other people I've known who have gone there, they came back with quite a bit of optimism. While they were also sobered by the difficulties people are facing and what we North Americans have to do to stop that, they were also so inspired. I was looking for that.

**Malkah:** What impressed you the most about the Nicaraguan revolution?

**Catherine:** Oh, there were so many things! Really, I think the most impressive of all was the strength and determination of the people. It was obvious that they will do whatever they have to do to insure that their triumph is secure. I also admired the high degree of political consciousness of the people. It was so impressive to see that the people there really feel that their government, the FSLN, is meeting their needs and making major advances.

**Claire:** That's so true. When you look at Nicaraguan society, you see so many connections and threads. The changes are sweeping. One understands that they have to really prioritize things so that they are able to meet the needs of the poor. The poor are the overwhelming majority in the country and had been so repressed under Somoza — he was so ruthless he even isolated the rest of the ruling class! So, while Nicaragua has a mixed economy, they are very clear — their main emphasis and highest priority goes towards meeting the needs of the poor.

When you think of the things they have there, they include many things that we don't have here. It's very impressive for such a poor country: free health care, free education, well-paid maternity leave and free childcare.

**Catherine:** And then when you think about the U.S. coming in, with their big-stick diplomacy and tactics, you see clearly that the Nicaraguan people are quite capable of determining their own future and of providing for their people.

**Claire:** I think it is no minor thing to see the spirit of the people there, how deep it is. The things I saw from the people in Nicaragua: their energy, their commitment, and their love. They were very loving towards us, even though we come from the country that is causing them such anguish, such difficulties. I mean, let's face it, they don't really get to relax there. They must be constantly prepared to confront a U.S. invasion, yet they continue to share their spirit with us.

**Malkah:** Describe the day-to-day life of the Nicaraguan people, the day-to-day life of Nicaraguan women.

**Claire:** As a people, they are very expressive. They love

culture and display their art everywhere. They are also very hardworking.

People know that they are building something that is hopeful for them, even in spite of the U.S.-financed aggression against them. They don't have the attitude: "Why bother to build if it might be destroyed?" Rather, they have great determination and enthusiasm and continue to build the New Nicaragua. They are also determined to defend everything they have built.

**Catherine:** I get that same sense. Its vibrancy. You feel it not only from the people, but from the city itself. It's a feeling of aliveness. There are beautiful murals painted everywhere, so colorful.

**Claire:** In your question, you also asked us about women in particular and we've been talking about people in general. In Nicaragua, I didn't get the sense that there is an antagonistic conflict between men and women. However, there is definitely struggle going on to overthrow old sexist ideology, and the women are going through major changes. You see women who are very proud, proud to be women and proud of the part that they are playing in the revolution. You definitely get a sense that women have overcome a lot in the last five years. The unleashing of women's energy, involvement, has just been tremendous. It's been happening because it has been part and parcel of FSLN's program ever since the foundation of the Front in the early 1960s. Everywhere we went, we heard both women and men say "there is not revolution without women's participation."

**Catherine:** Overall, the major gains that women have made have tended to make them more self-sufficient and not forced to rely on men as much as in the past. For instance, there is now free childcare, and women can get out of the house more and be paid equal pay for equal work. They have paid maternity leave — at least six weeks before and six weeks after at full pay. Also, if there is a separation or divorce, the partner who is going to take the main responsibility for the children, generally the woman, gets to keep the house.

**Claire:** In Nicaragua, women are very close and support each other tremendously. Some communities are composed almost entirely of women. This closeness, this intimacy, has really developed more strongly since the revolution. Before, there was a lot of divisiveness, some of it because of the ways women saw themselves and each

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members of the *Somos Hermanas*



other. This new closeness can be a positive sign of more possibilities in their relationships together. It is not strange for women to be out together, to be affectionate. Also, single people, of either sex, can adopt children.

Also, all the progressive people from North America going to Nicaragua, all the lesbians and gays and others who are addressing this issue, can only help. Nicaraguans are very interested in learning about progressive movements in the U.S. I think that there is a lot of hope that there will become more understanding of lesbian and gay issues in the future.

**Malkah:** Tell me more about the changes, the laws that are now impacting women's lives since the revolution.

**Catherine:** Well, women now have a very strong support system. Outside of the support they get from their government, they have two mass organizations: AMNLAE and the Mothers of the Heroes and Martyrs of the Revolution. They have been able to give each other a lot of support to face all the loss, pain and suffering that still goes on in defending their country.

They're also working closely with the domestic violence issue. It is being discussed a lot; women are being encouraged to talk about it at work and at union meetings. It is very out in the open.

**Claire:** One of the first laws implemented after Somoza was overthrown outlawed all sexist advertising. Women's bodies can no longer be used for such purposes in Nicaragua.

Also, new laws were initiated that affect the family unit, that clearly state that both responsibilities and decisions are to be shared. It used to that all the responsibility of the family fell on the women and all the decisions were made by the men. All of that is changed. Step by step they are building things. Also, there is a nurturance law which states that if a father is leaving, he still must support the children.

**Catherine:** The rape issue has been another area where the laws now affect women in a positive way. Rape used to be a very common occurrence because Somoza's National Guard troops used it as a means to terrorize the women, to keep them in fear. Now, whenever a woman is raped, she is listened to and her integrity is not questioned. The woman also takes part in deciding the appropriate sentence for the rapist.

**Malkah:** Are women in the army, in the defense?

**Catherine:** Oh, yes, definitely. Women are in the army in large numbers and at all levels.

**Claire:** There are many different branches of service: there are the militias, the army, the civil defense committees. Everyone is armed and ready to defend the country. The one place where women are not is in the Military Patriotic Service, the regular army, unless they volunteer to be. That is, the draft only applies to men. This decision was arrived at after much discussion and struggle. Some women from AMNLAE felt strongly that women should be included in the draft. But it was decided that women shouldn't be drafted because they were still carrying major responsibilities in the family. Things have not been completely collectivized, like childcare, nor are all the institutions set up to accommodate this. So while women may join, they are not forced in by the draft.

**Catherine:** We talked with Dora Maria Tellez, a commander in the army and a member of FSLN. She grew up in a middle-class family. She described how she worked out the contradictions of being middle class and her coming to see the need to secure the rights and participation of all people in the society.

**Claire:** She was very impressive. She was able to explain her process to all of us, including a separate delegation of U.S. religious women ranging from progressive to conservative. Here were these different levels of support and trust in the room, and still she was able to have us all relate personally to her.

She explained how she was from a fairly religious background and that she continues to be religious. She told us that as she grew more deeply committed to the struggle she had to face questions like: Do I love people enough to do this? Am I strong enough to do this? Also, she gave up the profession of being a doctor because she was preparing for that at the time.

She was just one of those people who you can ask a single question and she can just keep you captivated. The way she was able to tie things in together, made us all feel like we could relate her story to our own process of becoming politicized.

I think this example also points out how accessible the FSLN leadership is, and how warm it is. We met a lot of women in the FSLN, women of all ages, in all areas of the country. They are such powerful women.

**Malkah:** What about the relationship between the women's movement and Nicaraguan society in general?

**Catherine:** The women's movement in Nicaragua has been an integral part of the other struggles that the people face. It was not separated. As the Nicaraguan people took up the struggle against imperialism, increasingly so, women's liberation was on the agenda as well. So, when the revolution triumphed, the women went into full gear with their program for changing the sexist nature of the society. As the revolution stabilized, more and more women got involved, dialogued together and figured out plans and programs for women.

**Claire:** It's also really important to realize that women fought very hard against Somoza. That they played a major role in all aspects of the military struggle, as well as in making women's issues a top priority after the revolution. At the time of the victory, there could have been a tendency to push women's issues to a back burner, to say to women, go back to your inferior positions. But instead the issues concerning women were taken up, step by step, along the way. Women took this up in many ways. They went to their leaders — male leaders, too, men like Thomas Borge, who is a very strong supporter of women's liberation. They went to the FSLN leadership and their unions, neighborhood councils, and to all the people who they knew would help in the struggle against the remaining kinds of sexist problems.

For instance, when new legislation said that men had to take up work in the home, many men didn't want to and refused. Women, the AMNLAE in particular, drew on men to be part of taking up the struggle. This is a tactic that they have found very useful and effective — often men will think twice when they see other men whom they respect pushing for the same changes that the women are.

**Malkah:** What about lesbians and gay men in Nicaragua? What did you learn?

**Catherine:** Not a whole lot, to be quite honest. We talked with some sisters in the AMNLAE and they responded by saying that all people are judged by their commitment to the new society and that people's private life is essential their own. There is no official stance that the government takes either for or against lesbians and gays.

We pointed out to them that lesbians and gays in the United States were involved in great numbers in the Central American Solidarity movement. Their response was that they appreciate all the people in the United States who support them in their struggle to be free from U.S. imperialism.

**Claire:** While it is true that there is no anti-gay legislation, it is also true that Nicaragua is still a very heterosexually-oriented society. While it is positive of them to say that it is people's private life, it is also true that this means that there isn't a social organization to help develop

a gay and lesbian culture or places for gays and lesbians to meet. There isn't a visible lesbian and gay movement that we could see.

**Catherine:** I think there is hope. When I raised the issue of lesbian and gay concerns in Nicaragua, I didn't get a sense that I raised the wrong question or that people were disappointed that lesbians were on the tour. I didn't feel any homophobia, either before people knew many of us were lesbians or after they knew. So, to me, that is encouraging. It points to an openness, a direction.

**Malkah:** Could you describe your visit to the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua — the Bluefields region?

**Catherine:** While the majority of Nicaraguans live on the Pacific Coast, a population of Miskito, Rama, Sumu, and Mestizo Indians as well as Afro-Caribbean Blacks live on the Atlantic Coastal areas. The Afro-Caribbeans originally came to Nicaragua as a result of slave ships that were shipwrecked before they reached North America. Later on, many were brought by the British in an attempt to use them to further control and exploit the Miskito Indians — who were the bottom-most layer of society. Because of its remoteness, the Atlantic Coast was virtually ignored by the U.S.-backed Somoza regime, though the multi-nationals owned a great deal of the resources, and exploited the people for their labor. After the Somoza dictatorship was overthrown by the Sandinistas, the multi-national corporations fled the country.

This region was not directly involved in the struggle and revolutionary takeover. Because it had been so isolated, it did not have the same sense of victory and accomplishment at the time of the triumph. There were other problems that developed as well. After the revolution, a Miskito Indian named Steadman Fagoth became a leader and a communicator for the developing relationship between the Atlantic and Pacific areas. It was not known at the time that this man had been and continued to be an informer for the Somoza regime. In the early years after the victory, Fagoth spread division and lies about the Sandinistas. By the time he was discovered for what he was, he had done a lot of damage. Language was another issue. In the Bluefields region many languages are spoken, including English. Spanish is not the dominant language as it is in the Pacific region.

Another problem is that the Bluefields region became under increasing *contra* attacks. The people of the region had to be resettled in a different place. This resettlement process, under the leadership of the Sandinistas, was not sensitive to the different ethnic cultures and heritages of the people. Everyone was moved out together without regard to the different communities from which they came. Once the Sandinistas became fully aware of this problem, the population was resettled with particular attention to preserving the rich ethnic heritages of the people.

The Sandinistas also began a literacy campaign. While this was a positive thing, problems arose. The literacy campaign was started off in Spanish, whereas the people spoke many other languages, not principally Spanish. Since the early years, this has changed. The literacy campaign has been revamped to reflect the desires of the population to have bilingual education. A three-week conference on bilingual education was held this summer with many U.S. bilingual educators involved.

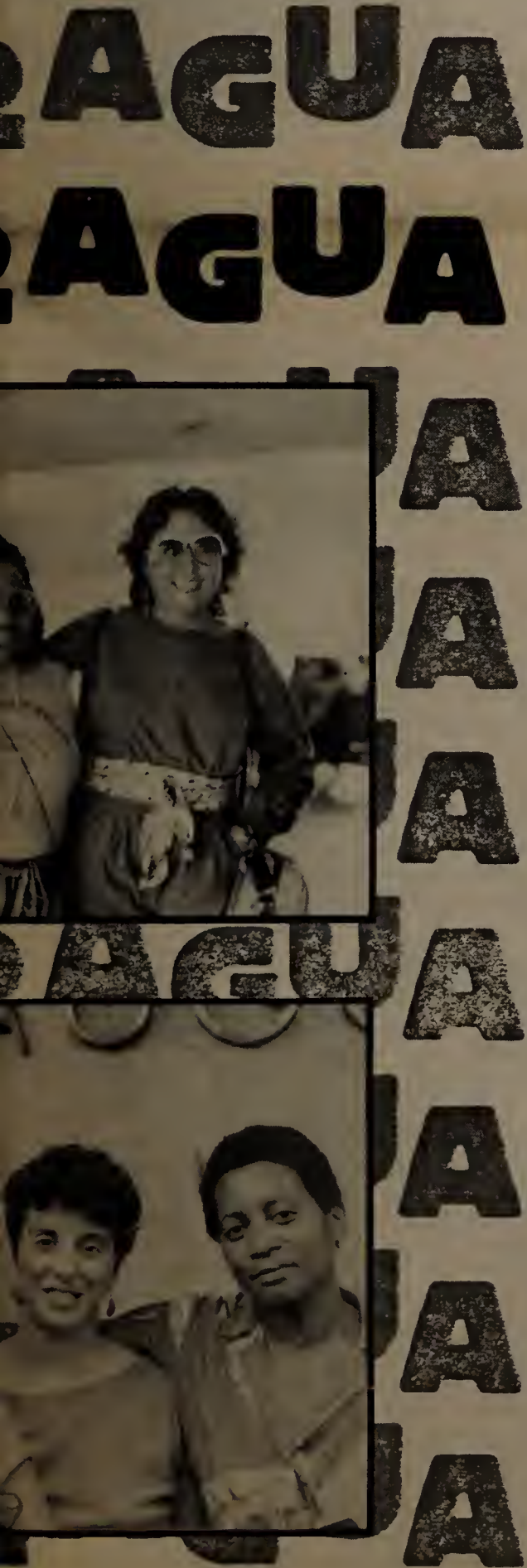
Also, unions, which weren't around before the revolution, are organized in all the industries. Churches are active, giving economic resources to help resettle peasants who have been displaced as a result of *contra* attacks. Another significant thing to mention is that, since the invasion of Grenada, young people in Bluefields have been enlisting in the Sandinista army in greater numbers. They want to insure that their country is safe from a similar United States invasion.

Since the Nicaraguan revolution, new gains have been made on the Atlantic coast. I was moved by the enthusiasm I saw. It's so different from what I read in the newspapers before I went.

**Claire:** Yes, I agree with Catherine. The Bluefields trip really showed the whole scope of the country. Some of the difficulties, like when the FSLN came there from the western part of the country where the people had waged this long and all-encompassing battle against the Somoza regime, it was hard for them to understand that these folks from the Atlantic coast were not involved in the same way. It was hard for them, coming from the Pacific coast where not one family was untouched by all the repression, how these people did not suffer the same way from Somoza or how there wasn't warfare going on. In fact, the Atlantic region was able to exist economically from the jobs they got from the multi-nationals.

So when the FSLN came in, they wanted to implement their organizations. But the area needed to be understood differently. A lot of the programs, already going on in the rest of the country, could benefit them — for instance, the literacy campaign — but had to be adapted to the region's particularities. As the FSLN learned from its early errors, gains were made. For example, in the course of the literacy campaigns in the native languages,

*Continued on next page*





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# Boston Women's Paper Rides Wave of Support

By Janice Irvine

CAMBRIDGE, MA — A fund-raising campaign to salvage the only remaining Boston-area women's newspaper has netted more than half its goal of \$40,000 and staff-members at the paper expect to go to press again by the end of February after a three-month suspension of publication.

Publishers of *Sojourner* elicited reactions of shock and consternation last November when they informed their readers in banner headlines: "This month has brought us the opportunity to vote for Geraldine Ferraro, the first woman vice-presidential candidate. It has also brought us at *Sojourner* to a painful decision: to suspend publication temporarily." At the end of its ninth year of publication, the *Sojourner* women had decided to take a brief hiatus in an attempt to break a debilitating spiral of financial debt and staff burn-out.

For years, *Sojourner* operated with only three staff members, and according to the November issue, "...lived from one financial crisis to the next — barely."

Shane Snowden, managing editor, told *GCN* that in October the staff, board of directors, and volunteers reached a consensus to undertake a major fundraising drive with a goal of \$40,000 before they would resume publication. The priorities for use of the funds include: more paid staff; staff benefits; a reserve fund that would buffer the paper from unexpected financial emergencies; and an increase in operating expenses to extend resources beyond the current bare minimum.

Snowden said that community response to *Sojourner's* crisis has been "fantastic." Several fund-raising committees have formed to

coordinate benefits, pledges, and other moneymaking endeavors. To date, the paper has raised \$28,000 and organizers hope to reach their \$40,000 goal by February 19, when *Sojourner* is scheduled to be published again.

If the additional \$12,000 is not raised, Snowden said the paper will re-open, but with a smaller format. "There would be more pressure on staff and delays in articles. My sense is we would eventually raise [the money] but it would be a more worrisome month than we had planned," she said.

Karen Lindsey, a writer who has contributed to *Sojourner* since its inception in 1975, is helping with fundraising. Addressing staff burn-out, Lindsey said, "There's got to be a structure where, if there's not a revolution in the next three months, one young woman doesn't become a very old woman in the course of a year."

Lindsey views *Sojourner* as a forum for diverse opinions within feminism. Unlike *Sister Courage*, which she described as socialist-feminist, or *Equal Times*, which was more mainstream, she sees *Sojourner* as an open feminist paper where issues can be debated from different perspectives. "So invariably all of us are going to get pissed at it at some time, but it's a voice for all of us," she said.

*Sojourner* has served as a vital connection by keeping women informed on issues, theories, and events. Yet it has also been a significant forum for feminist writers. Lindsey said, "As a writer, it [*Sojourner's* folding] would be a tremendous loss. There are things I can articulate in *Sojourner* that I couldn't articulate anywhere else or wouldn't want to articulate anywhere else.... In *So-*

*journer* I can be honest."

An unanticipated consequence of the *Sojourner* suspension has been a realization of widespread community support for the newspaper. Snowden told *GCN* that they've had little success in appealing for funds in the past. It now seems clear to the fundraisers that scores of women felt no need to subscribe since they could read the free copies of the paper that *Sojourner* traditionally dropped off at various locations. The paper is suspending that practice, so that women will subscribe or buy the paper.

Mary Lowry, a collective member of New Words, a Cambridge women's bookstore, serves as pledge coordinator for the fundraising drive. She told *GCN* that she has heard people in the store exclaim, "Oh, there's no *Sojourner*. How will I know what's going on?" She added, "I think it's going to take awhile for the people who have picked it up for free to cotton up to the fact that they'll have to buy it."

*Sojourner* fundraisers are optimistic that community support for them will continue. Angela Bowen, the coordinator of the benefits committee, told *GCN* that there has been overwhelming response to the benefits so far and that new people are consistently volunteering. Lindsey summarized the prevailing sentiment about the *Sojourner* crisis as viewed in a larger political context. She told *GCN*, "Boston has one of the largest feminist communities in the country. If we can't sustain our newspaper and get phenomenally upset about it folding, then that would say really demoralizing things about the women's movement."

## Nicaragua

*Continued from previous page*

Miskito is being written down for the first time. The Nicaraguan government has gained much more sensitivity to the concerns of the region.

**Malkah:** *What can we as North Americans do to better express our solidarity with the Nicaraguan people? Especially for those of us whose main focus of political work is in the lesbian and gay movement?*

Claire: There are so many different ways. I think we have to do whatever we can to maintain our civil rights and to continue to develop the progressive movement. Particularly, our coming together is important, to come to grips with our needs, our interests as a movement. This is important and we can influence public opinion. There is no contradiction between being involved in any struggle and also helping Nicaragua.

We need to watch what is going on there. When there is aggression, we need to call attention to it and mobilize people to oppose it. We can be creative in how we make the connections and find ways to pressure the government to stop the attacks. We can do this while we are engaged in any other struggle.

**Catherine:** Another important thing is for us to actively oppose the draft and to talk to people about the choices they're making when they're ready to get involved with the U.S. military. We need to get more critical. The people in Nicaragua fought hard for their freedom just as many of us are doing here. We need to get across to people that these are ordinary folks who want the U.S. off their backs. It's as simple as that, and it's *all* of our responsibility to understand what is at stake here.

Another important thing we can do to support Nicaragua is to send them material aid. They desperately need paper supplies, electric typewriters, new sewing machines and childcare supplies. If people have any of these things and would like to send them down, please contact us at: Somos Hermanas, P.O. Box 1091, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130. There are many material aid campaigns going on; participate in any one of them.

**Claire:** There are also different levels of support. Some people feel it very strongly, others are not so sure what they are ready to do. I think minimally we should advocate letting the Nicaragua people decide the fate of their own country. With what's going on now, there is no respect for international law. This is so dangerous and we can't let these actions by our government continue. We want our rights and at least we must respect this for Nicaragua. So, minimally, people need to stand up for that.

**Malkah:** *How did your trip to Nicaragua affect you?*

**Catherine:** Well, I know it considerably broadened my international perspective. Also, because Nicaragua is a country of people of color and a poor country, it really served as an inspiration to me of what can be done once everybody gets together and decides what they are going to do. I can relate this to my work here.

I grew up in Boston, in this most racist, segregated city. I know all the divisions that separate people — all the distrust and suspicion. All the things that inhibit us from coming together and building a movement. I think my experience in Nicaragua has helped me to see that we must do whatever has to be done to break down those barriers

and boundaries and open up the lines of communication. We can't afford to be divisive or sectarian — there is a role for everyone to play in a progressive movement and we have to be about building this. My visit to Nicaragua has changed me. I found so much hope.

**Claire:** I, too, was moved deeply — so inspired by the AMNLAE and the strong women of Nicaragua.

One of the most significant things for me was the long-term perspective of the Nicaraguan people. Their struggle for freedom was long, bloody, painful. Many loved ones were lost along the way. They had to rebuild organizations and adjust constantly. I feel that we need to grasp this long-range perspective here as well — to be able to keep going when we have difficult losses, as well as make the most of successes. I feel very strongly that we will need this vision as we build the movement in solidarity with Nicaragua. The Vietnam anti-war movement holds so much by way of lessons that we must grasp. We need to have the optimism of our sisters and brothers in Nicaragua in order to carry out *our* end of the responsibility to oppose a war against Nicaragua and the Central American region, in the face of a very persistent U.S. imperialism.

As sister *commandante* Dora Maria Tellez said about our struggle here in the "belly of the monster": "They say that God only gives us burdens we are capable of carrying. So you must be capable of carrying a big burden." The Nicaraguan people have confidence in us, the *people* of the United States. We can and must meet this challenge!



## P'town Poses

Continued from page 7

the Big One, Intercourse! SEX! FUCKING! Naturally you'll have to waste a lot of needless time in dumb movie theaters, burger shops and lonely long driveways or lover-type lanes. But it's supposed to be worth it.

But gay culture doesn't really have these highly defined rules and rituals. Most gays "trick" with someone as easily as straight men shake hands. Maybe I'm being harsh or coming off prudish, but as an entry-level faggot (GS-3), that's where I see it.

**"Are you gay?" he asks. "Yes," I shoot back quicker than ever before.**

Back to the guest house, I feel a little relieved. The evening's almost over and I'm OK. Being in a first-floor room I wonder if people can see me though the closed Levelor blinds. Especially since I have the light on while reading a porno magazine in bed. God forbid a line should form outside my window watching me jerk off! Maybe they're outside selling tickets! I turn off the light.

I wake up refreshed and glad I didn't kill myself or go home or something equally crazy yesterday. It's sunny and breezy and very cool. I dress quickly and plan my day.

I check out of the guest house and bike up to the beach and the trails, and dunes beyond. Hilly and beautiful with a nice resting spot after a couple of miles to write some more of this down. Back to the beach for lunch, and this time I'll wear that tiny black bikini!

Walking from the bike path toward the beach takes me past all forms of life. People are having tailgate parties like in the 1950s and seem to be camped out for good. Then you have families camped out only on blankets. Cute couples and a lot of old ladies. After passing to the left of the life-guard station, it's like Charlton Heston has come by and parted the waters of the Red Sea. Magically the whole beach is transformed. First the only change is no children, just straight couples, then it's wall-to-wall dykes. Old, young, fat, skinny, pretty, and ugly. Then male couples and more males!

I choose a spot near enough to others but not on top of someone. These people don't look so coupled off. I slowly peel off my tank top, hoping everyone will notice. Then the HiTops and socks, finally the shorts are off, revealing my "Muscle Beach Posing Strap Bathing Suit." I plop down on the beach towel and proceed to look around and smile a lot, hoping I've attracted at least a small amount of attention. They guy in front of me is wearing volleyball-style trunks, the kind you're supposed to wear a jock strap with. He isn't. He has nice buns and they're exposed a bit from the floppy material. As he moves around I'm not above staring at his little skin show.

I don't remember who spoke first. I think they were all conversing about Boston bars or something. Finally, I feel a little like I belong and it's very nice. The one with the loose boxer shorts smokes too many cigarettes and seems to lead a very fast life. Definitely not my type. The one opposite him, holding court on a beach chair, is stuffed into a slightly too small leopard print bikini. He has short hair, a good boy. It would be triple A, USDA choice meat if he tightened it up a bit. Very waspy-looking. But even so, my Jewish alarm goes off pretty quickly. He seems to have lots of money, a New Yorkish (sort of) accent and complains too much about the heat.

Soon we reveal where we're all from. Starting to talk about work, a little. More talk about the heat

and then some group discussion to go in the water, or at least some of us go in, others wade and declare it too cold.

Later they're breaking camp for lunch, changing clothes. Robert (I find out his name later on) is already out of that tight leopard bikini and into running shorts. I half invite myself, and half am invited to go along. I like them. I feel comfortable for the first time during the whole trip. I suggest the upscale "Cafe Blase," they decide on the "Dairy Queen." We dress,

semi-wait for each other to be ready, and walk together to the parking lot. One of the guys meets someone from his past. I ask Robert (whom I still don't know by name) if playing Gay Geography is like Jewish Geography. His eyes light up momentarily, "...you're Jewish?" Yes, I say. We all shake hands and introduce ourselves officially. They give me directions to Dairy Queen and agree to meet for lunch. Just as I almost give up finding it, I pedal my bike a bit more, and there it is. And so's Robert. He waves to me through the window. I feel a little special already. We talk over hamburgers and fried fish, playing Geography again.

"...Are you gay?" Robert asks. Yes, I shoot back. Feeling had and realizing he was having fun with me, I tell him he's a real asshole. I realize I said yes quicker than ever before. I didn't have to think about it this time, or cop out and say I'm "bisexual." I guess that's progress. It's a great lunch. Even the food is good. I wish I didn't have to go back today, but I have plans with a straight woman friend in Yarmouth and it's all coming to a close. I shake my goodbyes with Robert's friends, then he and I go down the street to make reservations for their dinner that evening. I'm again invited and again I decline. We chat on the sidewalk for almost an hour. We know we'll never see each other again. It gives our talk a deeper quality.

You can be free to say the truth to someone in these circumstances. You go right to your inner self. No games, no bullshit, no trying to score points with the other guy. You don't need to. We reveal things to each other we don't realize are there until we say them aloud.

I love the way he's clearly together. He knows what and whom he wants and he's willing to wait to find him. No one-night stands. No bars and baths and clubs. He has his new townhouse to renovate, and his dog to take care of, and his work to occupy his time. He seems really happy. We both agree that being alone is OK. I'm attracted to that quality in a man. He seems to like me and I'm getting won over very quickly. I'm so naive. I don't react well to these situations. We repeat our distaste for shipboard-type romance, Provincetown style. It seems not worth bothering with since you'll never see the person again.

On the other hand, I'm very glad I picked that exact spot on the beach this morning.

*We invite readers to submit articles for Coming Out, a series in which lesbians and gay men tell the stories of their individual sexual, social, emotional and political emergence. The articles should be no longer than 1500 words and, if possible, should be typed (double-spaced, please). Send to Coming Out, GCN, 167 Tremont St., 5th floor, Boston, MA 02111.*



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**Three groups are now forming at the Gay and Lesbian Counseling Services (GLCS):  
Coming Out Group for Men — A support group for men to deal with issues of isolation and self esteem.**

**Please call Ron Wozniak, M.Ed. at GLCS for more information.**

**Coming Out Group for Women — An opportunity for women to receive and provide support around their emerging sexuality.**

**Please call Teri Freeman, M.Ed. at GLCS for more information.**

**General Issues Group for Men — An ongoing group with openings for new members, providing a place to explore relationship issues of concern to gay men.**

**Please call Ron Wozniak, M.Ed. at GLCS for more information.**

**GLCS is a licensed mental health clinic which has been serving the community since 1971.**

*Sliding Fee Scale / Insurance Accepted\**

*Special funding for alcohol-related counseling*

*GLCS is a non-profit corporation*

*No one denied services for inability to pay*

*\*All insurance claims filed under CSI*

Cambridge Lesbian and Gay Alliance  
Cordially Invites You to Our

# ALL PEOPLE'S ANTI-INAUGURATION BALL

An Evening of Celebration and Unity

Fri., Jan. 18; 9-2

at

CAMPUS, 21 Brookline Street, Central Sq., Cambridge

Tickets available at: Glad Day Book Store, New Words Book Store, Out of Town Tickets

\$5.00 + Fee, \$6.00 at the door



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# Classifieds

## ROOMMATES

Arlington MTV 33 neat quiet seeks nonsmoker for very nice 2 bd apt on pond, close to bus, pkg \$325.00 w ht Avail Feb 1, lease Call 646-2146. (26)

**CAMBRIDGE — JANUARY**  
LF 32 seeks quiet non-smoking 25 + LF to share sunny spacious 2BR apt. \$213.50 each (incl ht) + util. Have 2 cats prefer no more pets but will discuss. Call: 491-2517 eves. (28)

JP resp prof mature GM sks same 26 + 2 share lrg 7rm apt 3rd fl w own bdrm + w/d storage conv pkg nr shops T prks 250 + utls Call eves wknds 524-7705. (27)

Pro L 30 seeking same 27 + for sunny 2bdrm apt Somerville for Feb 1 Lkng for responsible person friendly + indep living smokers ok no pets or drugs please \$237.50 + util lease Call Debbie 354-8560 leave message. (29)

**INMAN SQUARE**  
Ogynistic faggot seeks responsible, pacifistic person to share the work and the reward of converting small dilapidated apartment into a home. Please call David at 628-0016 or 923-0082 anytime. (28)

2GM want LF or GM to share Central Sq apt. We are mostly veg, collectively-run, peoples' politics. You pay: \$175.00, deposit, utilities. 497-6323. (27)

2 LF's looking for a 3rd to share voluptuous apt in Dorchester close to T. Please be considerate, neat and a non-smoker. Must like cats, no more please. \$100 + utilities & sec. 265-4923. (27)

**SOMERVILLE**  
LF or BiF wanted to share 5 rm apt with me and my cat. Clean considerate food sharing creative pers wanted. Reasonable rent, good loc nr T. Avail. sometime betwn Feb 1st and March 1st. Call Laurie 628-2889. (26)

**SUBLET BEAUTIFUL HOME**  
LF seeks mature responsible warm LF to share spacious furnished Newtonville house 6 to 12 months. Avail. March (flexible) Scr. porch garden fireplace piano. Quiet safe. Close to Watertown Sq Mass Pike. No cigarettes drugs. Sorry, no more pets. \$250 + utls. Call 965-0648. (26)

**FEBRUARY 1ST**  
L 28 seeks mature working woman as roommate. Somerville-conv. to T. 1 bdrm + l.r. empty Rent \$240. (inc heat). Cigs o.k./no drugs/alcohol. Must like cats. Jan 628-4532 eves. -6-7:30 & 9-12pm best. KEEP TRYING. (27)

2LF's seek LF for beautiful Davis Sq hse (w&d, 2 porches, backyd) — nr subway. Non-smoker, pref veggie, share food & fun. \$200 + . Call 776-8307 eve. (26)

**ROOMEZE**  
-LESBIAN/GAY-  
-FEMINIST-  
Roommate Matching Service  
\$15 fee  
Confidentiality Assured  
**CALL 641-3095**  
**M-F 9-6/Sat 12-5**

G 'M: 26-33, wanted to share furnished 2 bedroom apt., \$325/mo includes heat & hot water. Util. extra. Off-st. parking avail. References required. 1 year lease. Must be professionally employed. Near T-bus. Call 266-2125 any night 8-10pm. Avail Jan. (27)

LF 30 + 2 cats seek LF 25 + to share 2 br apt in JP \$175/mo + utilities. No more pets please. Leave message 522-8068. Available after Jan. 15.

L seeks roommate for house in Concord MA area Lots of space \$425 includes heat 371-1638 ls leave message. (26)

Man to share lrg space 2br condo So End Lawrence St new renov. full equip kitch \$500 incl. heat business keeps me in CT M-F. Call M-F 267-6263, 267-5554, (203)659-0139. (26)

**BELMONT**  
Prof GF 34 domicile clean gd mature sense of humor active gardener lkg 4 GF sensitive share twwns excel area no pets near T rent neg tel 489-1347. (26)

**DYKESPACE**  
2 quiet considerate LF sk 3rd for 3 br apt in quiet nbhd nr T. Have 2 cats, lots of books + music. No drugs, cigs or heavy alc. \$185 + util. Avail. immed. 566-1345. (26)

## HOUSEMATES

3 prof LF's seek same to share lg 1875 home in Wayland. Country yet 30 min fr Bos nr MA Pike Rt 9 Rt 30 2 min to lake veg garden sunny deck & hottub lg priv yd game rm porch laundry dishw non-smoker 653-2142 eves avail now \$200 + utils. (27)

**FRIENDLY S END HOUSEHOLD**  
LF F or GM wanted to share lg friendly S. End coop house. Lots of common space. No more pets, non-veg. \$182.50 + utils. Feb. 1. Call 247-0757. (28)

2 LF's seek 1 LF 33 + inter in sprtl and pers growth for suprtve 4 bdrm house BRKLINE nr T. No cigs/min alc. Rent 226 + util. Call 232-9089. (28)

## APARTMENTS

Bri— Comm & Hvd Aves on T— Furn rms from 75/wk some w/priv bath. 2 mos min stay w/4wks up front. Job & prior landlord refs reqd. 277-6622. (28)

## APARTMENT WANTED

2 LF sk 2 bdrm apt in Cambridge/Somerville area. No more than \$500 total. Call if you've heard of anything. Stephanie, 426-4469 days. (c)

## FOR RENT

**GETAWAY IN MAINE**  
Private peaceful contemporary w/vu fireplace 2 hrs from Boston skiing ocean close sleeps 1-11 Rent by wk or week-end. 354-5981. (27)

## REAL ESTATE

25% of LUX 3bdrm, contemp home in Ptown. Fully furn, gourmet kitchen, sundks, all amenities. Spectac 360° view of ocean & bay. 3 bdrm unit rnted July & Aug for income and tax credits. Addit 1 bdrm unit for owners. For price & details, call Don or Dennis, 353-0225, lv. message.

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## BARBRA STREISAND

**FOR SALE:** Remnants of a once-great Streisand memorabilia collection (R "Mem'ries light the corners of my mind . . ." ☺). Items for sale include import albums & singles, snapshots, 8 x 10" glossies, 1-sheet movie posters, movie programs, rehearsal & interview tapes, buttons, sheet music, etc. Write to Susan (who else?) at GCN, 167 Tremont St, Boston, MA 02111 for a more complete list.

## JOB OPPORTUNIITES

Weekend help needed for 26 y.o. disabled man 9-12am or 5-7pm. Man or woman, Fenway area, good pay, will train. Call John 536-5140. (27)

### D.C. WOMEN'S ORG

Dynamic women's non-profit cultural organization seeks persons to fill administrative and concert/festival production vacancies. Must have excellent communication skills, working knowledge of media and arts community and sensitivity to a wide range of progressive issues. \$800/month. Resumes only. Roadwork, PO Box 75172, Washington, D.C. 20013-5172. (27)

### SOCIAL CHANGE JOBS

**COMMUNITY JOBS**, a nonprofit newspaper, lists progressive jobs and internships nationwide that you can believe in! Jobs in women's rights, community organizing, the environment peace and more. Current listing \$3.00. Community Jobs, Box 221, 1520 16th Street NW, Washington, DC, 20036. (x)

Red Sun Press, a collectively run, high quality, movement print shop is lkg for a press operator and a stripper, with at least 2 yrs exp. Must have commitment to anti-capitalist politics. Call Red Sun Press, 524-6822. (x23)

### NEWS POSITION/AD MANAGER

GCN seeks applicants to begin early Jan.

**Local Reporter:** Write news stories on local movement/electoral politics, police/legal/legislative issues. Strong investigative/writing skills; familiarity with gay/lesbian/feminist issues and anti-racist politics. **Ad Manager:** Solicit revenue-producing ads and develop strategies for increased advertising; send out monthly billings. Strong organizational/interpersonal/recordkeeping skills. Previous sales/related experience helpful. Positions require commitment to gay liberation/feminism/social change/anti-racist politics and collective decision making. Salary: \$150/wk + paid health/life insurance & 3 wks vacation. **Resume and cover letter ASAP** to Gordon Gottlieb, GCN, 167 Tremont St. 5th fl., Boston, MA 02111. Lesbians/gay men of color particularly encouraged to apply.

## VACATIONS

### GREENHOPE FARM

Woman-only space in the heart of the mts. Ski from our door or downhill nearby. Cozy bed n' breakfast. Dinner available. Farm animals, horses. Wood-burning fires. 3½ hours from Boston. Call early to reserve space. 802-533-7772. (27)

### BRINLEY VICTORIAN INN

Explore Newport but let us harbor you with warm + friendly service, romantic Victorian decor, fresh flowers, cont. brkfl. (401)849-7645. (13/1)

## RESORTS

### VISIT A WINTER WONDERLAND

In the heart of New Hampshire's White Mountains, THE HIGHLANDS INN has miles of x-country ski trails, ice skating, snowshoeing. Downhill skiing and sleigh rides nearby. Lovely rooms, private baths. GREAT MID-WEEK DISCOUNTS! Grace & Judi, Innkeepers. Box 118G Bethlehem, NH 03574, (603)869-3978. (33)

### CHECK'ER OUT AT THE CHECK'ER INN

Dbl rms, coffee by fireside, pkg, apts also avail, 1 blk bay, open year round. 487-9029, 25 Winthrop St, P'town, MA 0 2 6 5 7

### GABRIEL'S

Guest rooms and apartments. Centrally located. Hot tub, garden patio, cable tv, coffee. 104 Bradford St. Provincetown, MA 02657. Reservations: (617) 487-3232. Open year round.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

### VERMONT GUESTHOUSE

Bed + Cont Bkfst for Lesbians and Gay Men in a country village house 2 hrs fr Bos. Yr-round. Nr lakes, hikes, skiing. Dave + Mike (802)348-7840.

## SERVICES

### COUSELING—PSYCHOTHERAPY

For individuals or couples, long or short term. Reasonable rates, sliding scale. John Graves, 266-2069. Formerly 6 years with HCHS. (35)

### GAY MEN'S THERAPY GROUP

Openings. Group focus is on intlmacy, gay identity, relationships. Individual therapy also available. Sliding fee. Call Francis Giambrone 628-6988.

**MASS. BAY  
COUNSELING ASSOCIATES  
COPLEY SQUARE  
INDIVIDUALS, COUPLES  
AND GROUP COUNSELING  
ALCOHOL COUNSELING  
HYPNOTHERAPY  
SEX THERAPY  
INSURANCE ACCEPTED  
(617) 353-0225 for appt.**

### INCEST SURVIVORS

Support group for women. Margrit Romang, MA, CET. 646-7395. (c)

<b>BOSTON-AREA GAY/LESBIAN BUSINESS GUIDE</b>	<b>MOVERS</b> BOSTON TRUCKING CO. (617) 641-1234	<b>T-SHIRT PRINTING</b> COMMUNITY GRAPHIC SERVICES Anni Waterflow 17 Shepton St. Dorchester, MA 02124 (617) 288-3106	<b>SOUTHERN JAMAICA PLAIN HEALTH CENTER</b> 687 Centre St. Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 (617) 522-5900	<b>REAL ESTATE</b> MARK THOMAS CO. LTD Mark Zimmerman Charles St. Boston, MA 02114 (617) 227-2209
<b>ACCOMMODATIONS</b> OASIS GUEST HOUSE 22 Edgerly Rd. Boston, MA 02115 (617) 267-2262	<b>DENTISTRY</b> DR. RICHARD BANKHEAD DR. PAUL GROIPEN 1259 Hyde Park Ave. Hyde Park, MA 02136 (617) 364-5500	<b>MEDICAL/COUNSELING</b> TAPESTRY, Inc. 20 Sacramento St. Cambridge, MA 02138 (617) 661-0248	<b>COUNSELING ASSOCIATES</b> 23 East Main St. Westboro, MA 01581 (617) 366-8576	<b>RACHAEL REALTY CO. INC.</b> 318 Harvard St. #31 The Arcade Building Brookline, MA 02146 277-0230
<b>RESUMES</b> AT YOUR SERVICE 634 Mass Ave. Cambridge, MA 02139 (617) 547-7117	<b>JOHN C. BARNA, D.M.D.</b> 739 Boylston St. Boston, MA 02116 (617) 353-1500	<b>FENWAY COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER</b> 16 Haviland St. Boston, MA 02115 (617) 267-7573	<b>MASS. BAY COUNSELING ASSOC.</b> 35 Huntington Ave. #331 Boston, MA 02116 (617) 353-0225	<b>REMODELING</b> T.H.E. CONTRACTORS, INC. 36 Pine St. Chelsea, MA 02150 (617) 889-4347
<b>ACUPUNCTURE</b> SEAN VARNUM Suite 401 678 Mass Ave. Cambridge, MA 02139 (617) 576-2144 (617) 321-8818	<b>FLORISTS</b> REMEMBRANCES FLORAL DESIGN 12 Mt. Auburn St. Watertown Square, MA 02172 (617) 926-4289	<b>JACK CEMPELLIN, M.S.</b> COUNSELING AND HYPNOSIS 8 Woodbury Court Salem, MA 01970 (617) 745-2939	<b>ARADIA COUNSELING FOR WOMEN</b> 520 Commonwealth Ave. Kenmore Square Boston, MA 02115 (617) 247-4861	<b>LITTLE BEAR AND COMPANY</b> (617) 296-1770
<b>BOOKSTORES</b> GLAD DAY BOOKSTORE 43 Winter St. Boston, MA 02108 (617) 542-0144	<b>HOME REPAIRS</b> GEORGE W. CASPER 47 Waldeck St. Dorchester, MA 02124 (617) 288-3228	<b>FRANCIS GIAMBRONE, MA, COUNSELING</b> 110 Orchard St. Somerville, MA 02144 (617) 628-6988	<b>GAY AND LESBIAN COUNSELING SERVICE</b> 600 Washington St., Rm. 219 Boston, MA 02111 542-5188	<b>TRAVEL</b> FOREX TRAVEL 76 Arlington St. Boston Park Plaza 482-2900
<b>CHIROPRACTORS</b> DR. EDWARD COHEN Brookline Family Chiropractic Office 1330 Beacon St. Brookline, MA 02146 (617) 734-7744	<b>INSURANCE</b> DAVID L. COLLINS, CLU Suite 830 50 Congress St. Boston, MA 02109 1-800-352-3185	<b>NORTH SHORE CMHC COUNSELING</b> 47 Congress St. Salem, MA 01970 (617) 744-5322	<b>DR. KENNETH H. ORTH</b> Psychotherapist 319 Mass. Ave. Arlington, MA 02174 (617) 643-1112	<b>NOBSCOTT TRAVEL AND SHUTTLE SERVICE</b> 795 Water St. Framingham, MA 01701 (617) 877-2278 (617)235-2040
<b>DR. JONATHAN D. STEIN</b> 375 Harvard St. Brookline, MA 02146 (617) 232-7200	<b>LANDSCAPE DESIGN/ BUILD</b> ROGER WASHBURN Licensed Landscape Architect 53 Hawthorne St. Somerville, Ma. 02144 (617) 776-6377	<b>PLACE/HOTLINE AND COUNSELING</b> 32 Rutland St. Boston, MA (617) 267-9150	<b>DR. STEPHEN GOLBURGH</b> Licensed Clinical Psychologist 1330 Beacon St. #231 Brookline, MA 02146 (617) 734-6996	<b>WOMEN</b> NEW WORDS BOOKSTORE 186 Hampshire St. Cambridge, MA 02139 (617) 876-5310
<b>DR. JAN RISING</b> 418 Washington St., Suite 112 Brighton, MA 02135 (617) 782-0267	<b>ACCOUNTING/BOOKKEEPING</b> AT YOUR SERVICE 634 Mass Ave. Cambridge, MA 02139 (617) 547-7117	<b>ALLAN SINGER, LICSW PSYCHOTHERAPIST</b> Copley Square Boston, MA 02116 (617) 266-2240	<b>DATING SERVICES</b> BUDDY'S New England Area (603) 880-7625	<b>WOMENCRAFTS, INC.</b> P.O. Box 190 373 Commercial St. Provincetown, MA 02657
<b>ELECTROLYSIS</b> Judy Feiner 678 Mass Ave Cambridge, MA 02139 (617) 497-2019	<b>TAX PREPARATION</b> MARJORIE E. POSNER 33 Ashcroft St. Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 524-7565	<b>CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES</b> (617) 269-8382	<b>CAREER COUNSELING</b> PAULA HERRINGTON (617) 628-9043	<b>WOMEN'S BARS</b> SOMEWHERE/ELSE 295 Franklin St. Boston, MA 423-7730
<b>GYMS</b> SOUTH END GYM 46 Waltham St. South End, Boston MA (617) 451-3514		<b>THE NEXT STEP</b> Counseling and Training Cambridge & Newton Offices (617) 491-6430	<b>ILLUSTRATION/DESIGN</b> Jean Vallon 75 Everett St. Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 (617) 522-3278	<div>This guide provides a listing of gay/lesbian owned, staffed, or supportive businesses and services. To have your business or service listed (for only \$100.00 per year) call 426-4469</div>



# CALENDAR

## January 12 to January 26

### 12 saturday

**Cambridge — Lesbian Singles** meeting. Daughters of Bilitis, 1151 Mass. Ave., Old Cambridge Baptist Church. 8PM. \$1. Info: 661-3633.

### 13 sunday

**Boston — The Black Men's Association** of Boston forum with the Patterson Chorale presenting a Gospel Musical Birthday Tribute to honor Dr. Martin Luther King. 558 Mass. Ave. 5PM. Info: 353-0719 or 782-0408.



Martin Luther King, Jr., see Jan. 13

**Cambridge — Wild Women X-country** (skiing or hiking, depending on weather). 10AM. Meet at 1151 Mass. Ave., Old Cambridge Baptist Church. Bring water & lunch. Beginners welcome. Info: 661-3633.

**Boston — Lesbian Parent Benefit/Celebration**; Somewhere Else, 295 Franklin St. 6:30PM. \$4. Proceeds to benefit a local custody case. Info: 427-0519.

**Boston — Visual and Performing Artists Brigades** to Nicaragua, leaving in May and August. Informational meeting at AAMRP, 11 Leon St. Northeastern University. 3-5PM. Info: 738-9719.

**Augusta, Maine — First Annual Statewide Meeting** of the **Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance**; University of Maine/Augusta, Jewett Aud. 1-5PM. Info: MLGPA, PO Box 108, Yarmouth, ME 04096.

**Boston — Karen Lindsey and Kate Rushin** read poetry to benefit *Sojourner*. 2PM, Greystone's, 8 Kingston St. Pre-reading brunch 11:30-1PM. Reading, \$5, with brunch \$10. Info: 661-3567.

**Boston — Martin Luther King Birthday Celebration** with the Rainbow Coalition. Reggae, funk, steel drums, breakers and rappers. The Channel, 25 Necco St. \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. Info: 524-3684 after 7PM.

### 14 monday

**Boston — Black and White Men Together** discussion: "Resisting Racism"; 8PM, 117 Appleton St. Info: 536-1160.

**Boston — Entrapment Monitoring Group** to discuss ending police harassment in cruising areas. 600 Washington St., Suite 219. 7:30PM. Info: 547-0295.

**Boston — Boston Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance** 1985 Annual Meeting. 7:30PM at Roxbury Community College. Election of officers and steering committee; setting of annual dues.

**Cambridge — "The Unfinished Agenda of Martin Luther King, Jr. Within the Context of the 1980s."** 12 noon. MIT, 44 Mass. Ave., Lobby 7. Info: 253-5446.

### 15 tuesday

**Boston — Lawyers Against Apartheid Day**; Lawyers and others involved with the law will picket the Federal Building. Noon-2PM. Info: 742-1326.

### 16 tuesday

**Cambridge — Baby Boomers' Rap**; Daughters of Bilitis, 1151 Mass. Ave., Old Cambridge Baptist Church. 8PM. \$1. Info: 661-3633.

### 17 thursday

**Boston — Gay Community News** always needs help on production night when articles are proofread and pasted up. If you've done proofreading or layout and would like to volunteer, stop by 167 Tremont St. 5th Floor (5-8pm for proofing, 7:30-11pm for layout). Come help out GCN and read tomorrow's news today.

### 18 friday

**Cambridge — Women's Spirituality Gathering**; 186 Hampshire St. 7PM. Info: 666-8816.

**Boston — Life Drawing** sponsored by Brushfire Graphics; 7-10PM. \$7 per session. To register: 424-1450.

**Cambridge — Martin Luther King, Jr. Symposium**, "The Unfinished Agenda"; MIT, Huntington Hall, Rm. 10-250. Noon.

**Boston — Susan Abod with Janet Hood**, cabaret; Greystone's, 8 Kingston St. 9PM. \$3. Info: 547-9429.

**Boston — Symposium: The Gay Science**: Philosophical and Scientific Perspectives on Homosexual Research; Conference Auditorium of the Boston Univ. George Sherman Union, 775 Commonwealth Ave. 10AM-5PM.

**Cambridge — "Choosing Children,"** a film on lesbians becoming parents. Angry Arts Film Series, YWCA, 7 Temple St. 7:30PM. \$2.75 donation. Also on Sat. and Sun. Info: 524-2915.



from *Choosing Children*, see Jan. 18

**Cambridge — Audre Lorde** lecture: "A New Spelling of Our Name." First Church, 11 Garden St. 7PM. \$3-\$5. Info: 277-1330.

**Cambridge — Anti-Inaugural Ball** sponsored by Cambridge Lesbian and Gay Alliance. \$5 in advance at Glad Day, New Words or Out of Town News, \$6 at the door: Campus, 21 Brookline St., Central Sq. Info: 547-0295.

**Boston — GCN VOLUNTEER NIGHT!!!** Come help send out the paper to our subscribers. Refreshments and good times. Come anytime after 6PM to 167 Tremont Street, 5th Floor (near Boylston and Park Street "T" stops). If the door is locked, buzz us on the GCN intercom located outside the front door.

### 19 saturday

**Cambridge — Audre Lorde** reading from *A Comrade Is as Precious as a Rice Seedling* by Mila Aguilar, Filipina poet; New Words Bookstore, 186 Hampshire St. 3PM. Free. Info: 776-8405.

**Cambridge — Jim Vetter's "Illusions: An Evening of Mime and Magic"**; Blacksmith House, 56 Brattle St. 8 & 10:30PM. \$4. Reservations: 547-6789.

**Milford — Tri-County Association** social at Bruce & Peter's. BYOB. Coffee available for non-drinkers. Hors d'oeuvres welcome. Info: 655-4268.

**Dorchester — Benefit party** for Anni Waterflow, recent disabled in car accident. Drug and alcohol free. Donations requested. 7-11PM. Info: 288-3106.

**Boston — Remedies to Police Abuse**, a conference sponsored by Clergy and Citizens for Justice; Mass. College of Art, Tower Bldg., 621 Huntington Ave. 10AM-4PM. Info: 536-7050.

**Cambridge — Audre Lorde** workshop: "A New Spelling of Our Name." Episcopal Divinity School, 99 Brattle St. 10AM-1PM. Info: 277-1330.

**Boston — Of Mitts and Men: Gay Men's Experience of Sports**, discussion with the Greater Boston Gay Men's Association. St. John the Evangelist Church, 33 Bowdoin St., Beacon Hill. 8PM. All welcome. Bring food or drink.

### 20 sunday

**Boston — Black and White Men Together** membership meeting and workshop on racism; 1-5PM, 117 Appleton St. Info: 536-1160.

**Cambridge — Carole Vance**, editor of *Pleasure and Danger: Exploring Female Sexuality*; New Words Bookstore, 186 Hampshire St., Inman Sq. 2-4PM. Info: 876-5310.

### 21 monday

**Chelmsford — Exploring Sexual Identity**, an 8-week group for women sponsored by Care & Reach Out, Inc.; 17 Wilson St. Sliding scale fee. Info: 256-0369.

### 23 wednesday

**Boston — Math Anxiety workshop** for women to meet every Monday & Wednesday for six weeks; Women's Technical Institute; \$100 includes supplies and calculator. Register: 266-2243.

### 24 thursday

**Boston — Boston Bisexual Men's Network** meeting at 7PM. Info: write, BBMN, PO Box 1645, Cambridge, MA 02138.

### 25 friday

**Cambridge — Susan Abod & Janet Hood**, cabaret; Modern Times Cafe, 134 Hampshire St. 9PM. \$4. Info: 354-8371.

### 26 saturday

**Boston — Civil Disobedience training** for women opposing military intervention in Central America. 10AM-4PM. Info: 628-4382, 661-0974.

**Cambridge — Radical America** journal celebrates its 18th birthday with a **Counter-Inaugural Ball**; 595 Mass. Ave., 3rd Floor, Central Square. 9PM-?? \$5 in advance, \$6 at door. Info: 628-6585.

**Cambridge — Sojourner** benefit at the Marquee, Mass. Ave., Central Sq., sponsored by Something About the Women radio show. 8PM to closing. Info: 661-3567.

## Notes

Boston's fall theater season has wound down and is now settling into the mid-winter lulls. The Opera Company of Boston presented a version of Offenbach's *Tales of Hoffman* lovely to look at and sprightly sung (especially by the sopranos). Their next offering will be the more sober, but just as fantastical, *The Makropulos Case* by Leos Janacek, sung in English, during the few two weeks of February. (Call 426-2786 for dates, times and prices.) And on January 27, at Symphony Hall, Boston Concert Opera will thrill and trill with great embellishment Bellini's little-performed *I Capuletti E I Montecchi* (*Romeo and Juliet* in real life) with the part of Romeo played *en travesti* (526-1166).

The Colonial featured a back-to-back musical beginning with *GiGi*, a pasty-faced, soft-bellied dinosaur of a movie-turned-stage-show. Both stars, Louis Jordan and Betsy Palmer, looked embarrassed and atypically untalented. This was quickly replaced with *Jerry's Girls*, an evening of Jerry Herman's musical ladies beginning with Mame and Dolly and ending up with the great drag queen ZaZa. Carol Channing played Marlene Dietrich, as well as Carol Channing (a routine that Craig Russell does better), Andrea McCardle showed that Annie could grow up, and Leslie Uggams proved once again that she has more grace, talent and poise than most anyone else on stage today. With the exception of the great songs from *Mack and Mabel*, the material was familiar; enjoyment depended upon individual tolerance.

The *Twelfth Night* at the Huntington was light and charming, missing the play's meatier moments but providing warmth and humor. Beginning this week they will begin their *Uncle Vanya* with Maryann Plunkett who has traded in her *Agnes of God* habit for a samovar. *Vanya* will play until February 3 (266-3913).

*King Stag*, at ART, was perhaps the gayest theatrics all season, with drag roles, trouser parts and more imagination and fantasy than is usually found in a whole year of theater. If that was too upbeat for you, they are now presenting a new, controversial production of Beckett's *Endgame*, a real pick-me-up for the post-holidays blues. *Endgame* will be on stage until the first week of February (547-8300).

In early January the Lyric will bring Arthur Miller's *A View From the Bridge* in which sex, loyalty and conscience run neck and neck, with everyone losing (742-8703). Sex, conscience, and this time, guilt, also raise their voices in The Theater by the Sea's production of *Agnes of God*, playing now until February (603-431-6660). The Nucleo Eclettico, in the North End, will be staging the Boston premiere of *Say Goodnight, Gracie* about sex and growing up in New York (367-8056).

And up and coming to the Colonial is Hugh Whitmore's new Broadway-bound *Pack of Lies*, about friendship, loyalty and betrayal. *Pack of Lies* will play this month and the first week of February. Rosemary Harris and Patrick McGoochan star (426-9366). And the New Erlich will continue their Fifth Anniversary season with Sam Shepard's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Buried Child*, beginning January 9 through February 23 (482-6316).

— Michael Bronski

*The GCN weekly calendar includes events in the Boston area of interest to the lesbian and gay community. We try not to leave anything out but remember, we depend on you to keep us informed. Let us know as early as possible what your group is planning.*

*The deadline is Friday noon for the following issue. Just send the information to GCN Calendar, 167 Tremont Street, Fifth Floor, Boston, MA 02111.*

Calendar compiled by Miranda Kolbe

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